



The Dispatch

Newsletter of the

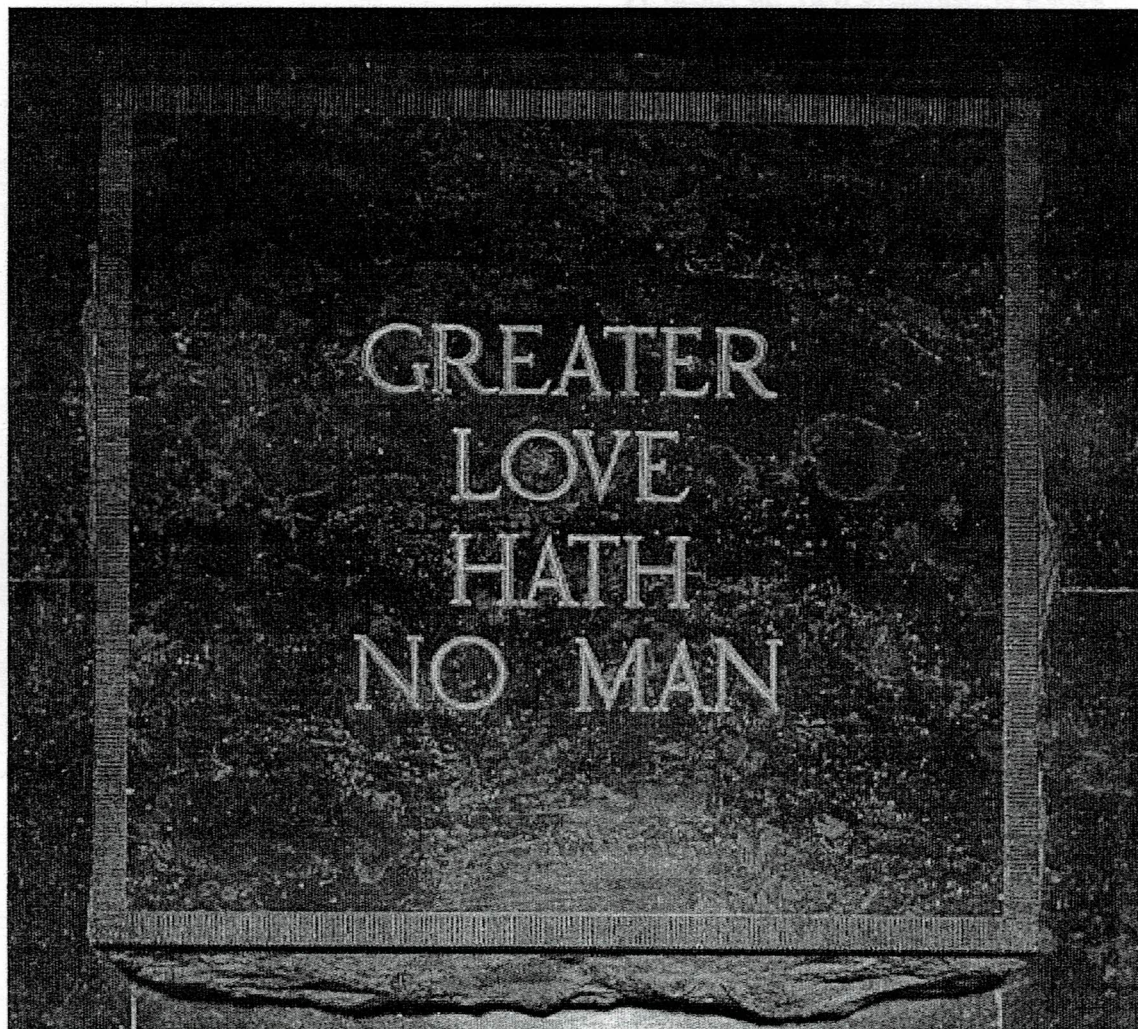
Capital District Civil War Round Table

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

CDCWRT's web site: timesunion.com/communities/cdcwrt

Volume 19 Number 2

October, 2001



October Meeting Friday, 10/12/01

**Guilderland Library
Western Avenue
Guilderland, NY**

Social Hour 6:30 pm

Business Meeting 7:00 pm

Presentation 7:30 pm

CDCWRT MEETING

The October meeting of the CDCWRT will be held in the Guilderland Public Library on Friday, October 12th. Our speaker will be ERIC A. CAMPBELL. Mr. Campbell earned his B.A. in History at Mt. St. Mary's College in 1985. He has worked at Gettysburg NMP for almost 15 years, both as a Licensed Battlefield Guide and a Park Ranger.

Mr. Campbell will speak about Charles Wellington Reed, who was bugler of the 9th Massachusetts Battery (Bigelow's Battery). This battery became famous for the heroic stand and sacrifice of its crews at Gettysburg. Reed was awarded the Medal of Honor for saving Capt. Bigelow's life at Gettysburg. Member of the battery also rescued and carried off the field at Petersburg, Col. Joshua Chamberlain.

Reed was also a skilled artist, who recorded in hundreds of sketches, incidents of the Civil War. These sketches and 180 letters still survive, and are the basis of Eric Campbell's recent book entitled, "A Grand Terrible Drama": From Gettysburg to Petersburg, The Civil War Letters of Charles Wellington Reed.

Copies of this book will be available at the meeting for purchase and signing.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The shocking events of September 11th were beyond what most Americans could have imagined. On Thursday the 13th, there were discussions within each of the co-sponsoring groups of Civil War Days at Pruyn House as to whether or not to proceed with the weekend activities. By that evening, the unbelievable pictures and the numbing realization of the loss of life were so overwhelming that all three groups felt it best to proceed and offer the community an opportunity to emerge itself in a bit of Americana history. It would be similar to a family meal after a wake --- a welcomed relief from the grief and sadness of the week. We were concerned about the decision, and how it would be received.

Almost 100 people attended the Friday night reception with cookies and sherbet provided by the 125th NY, and an excellent and informative presentation by Capt. Richard E. Straight on the history of the 125th from mustering to disgrace at Harper's Ferry to redemption at Gettysburg. Chaplain William Nieffer then lead a moving candlelight service at the flagpole with traditional hymns and readings in memory of the lives lost on September 11th.

A small but steady crowd attended the other lectures and events throughout the remainder of the weekend. The weather was glorious, and for a brief period of time, those who attended the weekend activities, were able to lay aside the horrors of the week, and experience the events of another time.

BOARD MEETING

The September Board Meeting was held on Thursday, September 20th. The treasurer's report indicated \$1605.97 in the general fund and \$15,412.09 in the

Hennessy preservation fund. Included in this are deposits for the October trip. The Pruyn House Civil War Days grossed \$435. The RT's share of the 50/50 raffle was donated to the 125th NY Regimental Association preservation fund. The 3rd and final installment of \$150 from those members going on the October trip is now due. The remainder of the meeting involved discussion of the November conference in Albany (see below). The meeting adjourned to hear our President's speech to the public that night.

The CDCWRT has donated \$5000 to Brandy Station Foundation as a matching grant. The CDCWRT will match donations from other Round Tables up to \$5000. Thus, if the grant is matched, a \$10,000 donation will be made toward the purchase the rest of Fleetwood Hill. **Any members, who want to add to the challenge amount, may do so by sending checks, marked Brandy Station, to our treasurer.** Bud Hall called Joe Stracuzzi to thank the RT for its idea (The Stracuzzi Challenge), and its support.

UP-COMING EVENTS

There will be a Revolutionary War re-enactment at the Old Stone Fort in Schoharie on Saturday and Sunday, October 6th & 7th, from 10:00 am to 4:00pm. If it's a sunny fall weekend, this will be an educational and enjoyable experience for the family.

* * * * *

The New York State Library will hold a Civil War workshop on Thursday, November 8th, from 10:45am to 3:00pm to show what the State Library and State Archives have in the way of resources to

research an individual, a regimental unit, or the Civil War period of a community history. A \$10.00 registration fee includes handouts. Participants may bring their own lunch, or order a box lunch for \$10.00. Deadline for registration is October 25th.

THE NOVEMBER RAFFLES

A generous benefactor, the Evergreen Cemetery preservation group, has donated a limited edition cold-cast bronze statue to the Round Table for our November Conference Raffle. It is the Gettysburg Civil War Women's Memorial by our resident sculptor, Ron Tunison. This is a model of the statue that will be dedicated on November 16, 2002. The Special Edition sculpture is limited to 500, and includes a piece of brick from the Evergreen Cemetery gatehouse, the home of Elizabeth Thorn during the Battle of Gettysburg.

With the help of her elderly father, and while six months pregnant, Elizabeth Thorn buried 91 soldiers during the weeks after the battle. Her post-war reminiscence is one of the best-known civilian accounts of the battle.

Several raffle tickets are enclosed with this newsletter, and may be purchased for \$5.00 apiece. Money and the tickets should be returned to Paul Rivenburgh, treasurer. Additional tickets may be obtained by calling Matt Farina, or they may be purchased at meetings, right up to the drawing in November.

If you are lucky at love, but unlucky in raffles, you can purchase the Women's Memorial statue to add to your Tunison collection. The limited edition statue sells for \$400, but can be purchased through the RT for \$350. A Regular Edition, limited to 1500, but without a piece of the brick, lists for \$275, but can also be purchased through

the RT for \$250. A **whole brick from the Evergreen Cemetery Gatehouse**, can be purchased for \$200. These items and others relative to the gatehouse will be on sale at the October and November meetings.

* * * * *

A second raffle, will have a variety of prizes. This will be the regular 'book' raffle, but the main prize will be an autographed edition of *A Shower of Stars: The Medal of Honor and the 27th Maine*, by John J. Pullen.

This book was donated by the author for the raffle, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Joshua Chamberlain house. Other raffle prizes include books, stamp cachets, A poster, and pins. Tickets for this raffle are \$2.00 apiece, or 3 for \$5.00. Tickets can be purchased at the conference, the banquet, or at the October meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

The July 2001 issue of *Gettysburg Magazine* is available from the Round Table for \$5.00. A supply will be present at the October meeting.

* * * * *

As of the end of September, there has been over 18,000 hits on the CDCWRT Website. Kudos for our web master, Jon Olson. Huzzah! Huzzah! Huzzah!

* * * * *

The RT would like to re-activate the video lending library. Please look on your shelves, under your couches, and behind your TV for videos you may have borrowed

and return them at the next meeting. Thanks.

* * * * *

Members of the CDCWRT were present at the **140th Anniversary of the first Battle of Manassas**. This starts the 140th year cycle, and promises to be a very busy five-year cycle. The holidays are coming soon, and souvenir-seekers and collectors might like to start with these special sets. A 3-cachet set with flag stamps sells for \$10.00, while a 3-cachet set with Civil War stamps sells for \$15. Cachets include Lee, Sherman, Early, Custer, Jackson, Sullivan Ballou, and a single cachet featuring McDowell, Beauregard and Johnston.

Each set is accompanied by the official commemorative program of the event, and a copy of the September 2001 issue of *America's Civil War* magazine. Historian, author and RT member, John Hennessy, has the lead article entitled, "**First Manassas: Confusion and Carnage on Henry Hill.**" These are in limited supply, so don't miss out!

* * * * *

I know there are many baseball fans in the RT. On June 28, 2001, a ten stamp series of legendary baseball stadium was issued by the Postal Service. This is a highly desirable and collectible series, especially when combined with the Legends of Baseball set from last year. Sets of the stadium stamps will be available after the October meetings at \$3.00 apiece, or 2 for \$5.00, or a complete set for \$25.00

* * * * *

No, you are not going blind! I have been printing the newsletter in a 11 font, but due to a concern in printing, the printer has

been reducing the page size, so the print is probably reduced to a 9 or 10 font. This newsletter is printed in a 12 font, which is easier to read, and if reduced, should still be easier to read. I hope this alleviates your concerns over impending nearsightedness.

EDITORIAL

In my opening comments at the September meeting at the Pruyn House Civil War Days, I stated that if Mr. Lincoln were alive today, he would have openly wept at the loss of lives at the World Trade Center. The Battle of Antietam represents the single largest casualty count in American military history. The total is reported as 22,719 and consisted of 3654 killed, 17,292 wounded and 1771 missing. Even if all of the missing were killed, the total KIA figure for the day is 5425. While the actual numbers may be adjusted slightly upward or downward, the scope of the tragedy is still 22,000-23,000 casualties. For almost 139 years, this day, September the 17th, 1862, was America's 'longest day.' By comparison, on the Allies 'longest day,' June 6th, 1944, some 9500 to 10,000 casualties were sustained. On September 11, 2001, in the matter of a few hours, history was changed. No natural disaster or military engagement could match the more than 7000 souls killed in America in a single day event.

Antietam was the media sensation of its day. Photographer Alexander Gardner's pictures were taken a few days after the battle. These were the first to show to the United States public the horrors of war. On September 11th, we watched the horror live of television, and watched it repeatedly from different views over the next several days. The Nation in 1862 was stunned by the sheer numbers of casualties, but knew it was engaged in a Civil War that was becoming a longer war than initially expected. The

Nation today was stunned by the scope of this terrorist act, even at a time of mass casualties of war and war atrocities that were committed in the Balkans and Africa.

After Antietam, the war's course was changed with the policy of emancipation which linked the abolition of slavery with the preservation of the Union as Northern war aims. Emancipation made it impossible for European nations to recognize the Confederacy.

We are yet to write our history after 9/11/01. Although life goes on, our history will be, ---has been, changed. We just don't know yet the HOW and the OUTCOME. Hopefully, our Nation will show the same resolve that our predecessors demonstrated. The war was won, but even today, not everyone would agree the victory over slavery is complete. However, NO ONE would return to situation of the past. The War against Terrorism is now being fought. We, as a Nation, now realize that we must fight in this War. But more than that we must lead in this War. We must politically, economically and militarily fight to destroy not only terrorism, but the conditions in which it breeds --- poverty, hunger, repression, racism, and the other crimes against Humanity. We owe it to over 7000 souls to change the world so that NO ONE would want to return to the world of 9/10/01.

On the cover of this newsletter is the focal point of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, Australia. The builders strove to express in the design, the continuity of noble ideals, such as demonstrated by the fire and police rescue workers killed. Standing before the stone, there is a profound sense of lost lives, deeds done, sacrifices made, and hope lost. But there is also **Hope** for the future.

