



# The Dispatch

*Newsletter of the*

## Capital District Civil War Round Table

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CDCWRT's web site: [www.cdcwrt.org](http://www.cdcwrt.org)

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This month marks the 143<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Antietam. There are several landmarks on the battlefield that are among the most vivid images of the Civil War. Burnside Bridge is such an image. After hours of unsuccessful attempts to cross the bridge, Col. Edward Ferraro addressed his troops, *"It is Gen. Burnside's special request that the two 51<sup>st</sup>'s take that bridge. Will you do it?"* A soldier called out, *"Will you give us our whiskey, Colonel, if we make it?"* *"Yes, by God!"* The two 51<sup>st</sup>'s, New York on the left and Pennsylvania on the right, charged up the road in column with fixed bayonets, and in scarcely more time than it takes to tell it, the bridge was passed. They got their whiskey.

**SEPTEMBER MEETING  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>  
GUILDERLAND PUBLIC  
LIBRARY  
WESTERN AVE.  
GUILDERLAND**

<b>SOCIAL HOUR</b>	<b>6:00-7:00</b>
<b>BUSINESS</b>	<b>7:00-7:30</b>
<b>PRESENTATION</b>	<b>7:30-8:30</b>
<b>Q&amp;A &amp; DISCUSSION</b>	<b>8:30-10:00</b>

**CDCWRT MEETING**

*The first meeting of this new season will be held on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Guilderland Public Library. Please note this meeting is on the third Friday of the month because of previous Round Table activities and special days. Our speaker will be Dr. Tommy Smith, Professor of Advertising and Public Relations at Shorter College in Rome, Georgia.*

*Tommy is also a seasonal ranger for the National Park Service Park at Lindenwald (Martin Van Buren National Historical Site) which brings him into our area. He is also a seasonal ranger at the Chickamauga Battlefield. It seems that Tommy grew up in the South near Chickamauga. In fact his family lived on a farm that became part of the battlefield. He has Civil War ties to both sides and is a member of both the Sons of Union Veterans AND the Sons of Confederate Veterans.*

*Tommy will talk about New York regiments at the Battle of Chattanooga. This promises*

*to be unique talk about a battle with local ties that include the 134<sup>th</sup> NYVI.*

**UP-COMING EVENTS**

Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, is the Gala for the Hudson-Mohawk Industrial Gateway. The CDCWRT had supported this organization, which includes the Burden Ironworks Museum. Last year the RT ran the silent auction for the fundraiser Gala. Members of the RT will do the same this year. The September meeting of the CDCWRT was postponed one week to allow members of both groups to attend each event.

\* \* \* \* \*

Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, is the Irish Festival at the Altamont Fair Grounds, on route 146, in Altamont, NY. The CDCWRT will again have a booth at the event to raise funds by the sale of Civil War Irish Brigade items. The green T-shirt with the Irish Brigade letterhead emblem in gold was a stupendous success last year. If you attend the event, look for our tables, and get a T-shirt to help the cause.

\* \* \* \* \*

November activities will be covered in next month's newsletter, but will include activities at the New York State Capitol where more newly preserved Civil War flags will be unveiled as part of a ceremony similar to last year. Our Fall Banquet will tie into these activities. Last year the newly preserved Zouave flags were unveiled in a ceremony that was hosted by the CDCWRT. A Civil War tour of the Capitol's \$1million staircase was also offered.

## BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOK

If you are looking for some new reading to do this fall as the days get shorter, the evenings cooler, and the fireplace looks inviting, consider the following.

Craig L. Symonds is a well-known Civil War author and retired U.S. Naval Academy instructor. His latest book is entitled *"Decisions at Sea: Five Naval Battles that Shaped American History."* In the chapter on the Civil War and the clash of the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia ironclads, Symonds is the consummate storyteller, creating powerful images. The book begins with the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813, and ends with Operation Praying Mantis in 1988. You'll have to read the book to find out the other two.

Political historian, Michael W. Kauffman, has written *"American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies."* Kauffman has studied the Lincoln assassination for more than 30 years. He follows the personal history of the many characters whose names are associated with the assassination, from the lead-up to the attack, through the escape, the trial and the hangings. His research has led him to conclusions that differ greatly from long-held popular beliefs. Among these are the following: Booth did not hurt his leg in the theater but during the escape on horseback; Mary Surratt was properly charged as a conspirator; Dr. Samuel Mudd was not properly charged. (CDCWRT members of course have known for several years now that Booth broke his leg when his horse fell during the escape. Do you remember our bilateral amputee, entertaining escape route expert?)

*"The Confederate Battle Flag: America's Most Embattled Emblem"* was

written by Museum of the Confederacy historian and librarian, John M. Coski. The first National Confederate Flag was known as the Stars and Bars. The well-known rectangular banner with the red background and the blue St. Andrew's cross, also known as the Southern Cross, is the Confederate battle flag. The National Flag was redesigned later with the St. Andrew's cross added to the upper left corner.

Coski gives a history of the flag from the Civil War to its use by U.S. military units during World War II and the Korean War, and by hate groups in the 1960's. In the 1990's its use on public buildings became a highly emotional issue.

*"Generals in Bronze: Interviewing the Commanders of the Civil War"* is a most fascinating collection of interviews that have been edited by William B. Styple. Imagine that you stop at a garage sale somewhere, and you buy a box of old looking papers. Imagine your surprise when you find that the papers are interviews of Civil War soldiers. But not just soldiers, but the commanders, including Sheridan, Sherman, and Grant. Now multiply that box by 27.

In late 2003, Styple discovered 27 boxes of interviews, notes, letters, sketches, photographs, and drafts of the memoirs of James Edward Kelly, American illustrator and sculptor. *"In the Presence of the Great"* was the working title of his unpublished memoirs.

Kelly was a boy during the War, but he became an artist and illustrator for *Harpers* and *Scribner's*. In 1879, while on assignment for his publishers, the 24-year old Kelly realized his boyhood dream of meeting and sketching portraits of the surviving Civil War generals. Like a barber making talk while cutting hair, he asked

questions of the officers as he sketched them. Blessed with total recall, he later wrote down the conversations. Even if he sometimes got them wrong, and even though these were memories some 15 plus years after the War, they are fascinating.

Sheridan states in response to the account that he was born in Boston, **"No, I believe I was born near Albany. My wife had some curiosity about that, and when she went to see my mother she found out about it. They had me born in several states, during the war."** Well I guess that statue in front of the Capitol building is correct!

We have all seen images that Kelly drew as illustrations for the volumes after the War. These include *Sheridan's Ride*, *The First Gun at Fort Sumter*, *General Meade's Council of War at Gettysburg*, and *Lee's Surrender*. Later, he began sculpting in bronze and completed *Sheridan's Ride*, *The Crowded Hour at San Juan*, *Sixth New York Cavalry Monument* (at Gettysburg), *Washington at Valley Forge*, and *Gen. John Buford* (at Gettysburg),

The public sculptures that we should all know intimately, include the *Saratoga Monument* at Schuylerville and the *Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument* in Troy.

**Kelly is buried in an unmarked grave in Saint Raymond's Cemetery in the Bronx.**

## OBITUARIES

There were two notable deaths this summer that were felt deeply by the Civil War community. **Shelby Foote**, 88, died in Memphis, Tennessee. Foote was an author and historian. He was the great-grandson of a slave owner and Confederate captain who fought at Shiloh. His best-known novel,

*Shiloh*, published in 1952, provided an account of the famous Civil War battle through the monologues of soldiers of both armies.

It took 20 years for Foote to produce the 2,934 page, three-volume, 1.5 million word military history, *The Civil War: A Narrative*. He wrote 500-600 words a day in an ornate script, using an old-fashioned dip pen and ink. However it was Foote's appearances in the Ken Burns PBS series, *The Civil War*, that introduce Foote to a huge television audience. In a drawl so mellifluous that one critic called it "molasses over hominy," he told parts of what he considered America's biggest story as a vast, finely detailed, deeply human narrative.

Foote was invited to speak at a conference on writing at the State University at Albany several years ago. Those of us who attended the open session heard him read the last 20 or so pages from his Civil War opus. We sat spellbound listening to that honey voice.

The second loss was that of author, re-enactor and preservationist, **Brian Pohanka**, on June 15<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria, Virginia. Pohanka commanded the 5<sup>th</sup> New York, Duryee Zouaves. Brian was born in Washington, D.C. in 1955. He majored in history at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Pohanka's most prominent endeavors included spearheading the popular 27-volume Time-Life series on the Civil War, serving as consultant for A&E/History Channel series on the war, and advising and consulting for the movies *Glory*, *Gettysburg*, *Gods and Generals*, and *Cold Mountain*. He authored, co-authored, and edited numerous books on the Civil War. He was a leading authority on the battle of the Little Bighorn.

In fact years ago, Brian was the guest speaker for our fall banquet. He spoke on the new discoveries at Little Bighorn after a prairie fire had exposed new archeological finds. A public memorial service, attended by hundreds, was held at Manassas battlefield. *The Civil War News* highlighted Pohanka's life and his impact on the Civil War community in the August issue.

### **LINCOLN MEN AND SONS OF DIXIE**

This is a new feature of *The Dispatch*, which was started earlier this year. If you have a relative, or your significant other has a relative, or if your friend has a relative, or if you have just found someone on your own but claim no relative ties, AND you would like to share some history about this person, we would like to highlight it. Please send details to the editor. This month's features a 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century connection.

### **KUDOS AND KUDOS**

Members of the CDCWRT have been busy this summer in fund raising and education. Our president, Matt George, gave a presentation to senior citizens at Kings Way Village that was well received.

Treasurer, Mike Spaulding, sends a summary of activities that have raised funds for our preservation goals. These monies collected from the sale of cachets, T-shirts, prints, etc. at various events.

June 10-11 Peterboro - \$565

June 18 - Military Museum - \$179

June 29-July 4 Gettysburg- \$5525

July 9-10 Troy Masonic Event - \$440

July 29-31 Cooperstown - \$2484

All of us own special thanks to Mike, Rosemary, Joe, Matt G., Lew, Fran and others who have manned the tables at these events. Special thanks to Sue Knost, who

thinks of these events, organizes our participation in them, and attends all of them.

### **KATRINA NAD LOSSES**

As we all know by now, the Hurricane Katrina will be the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history, both in economic impact and loss of life. The impact of this storm will be felt for years.

Personal property losses may include loss of ones auto, or home, or family pictures. Community losses might include loss of the town hall or fire department. State or national losses might include the loss of bridges or highways.

For those of us with a keen interest in the Civil War, the storm also takes away or heritage and history. The loss of family photos, Bibles and letters from the War means that these unique artifacts are gone for good. The loss of collections such as guns and art work and coins and paper money from the Civil War era might mean that surviving artifacts have become more rare and more valuable. But they would also become less available for study or research.

The loss of artifacts can include large ones, such as the complete destruction of Jefferson Davis' Biloxi, Mississippi Home and the Davis Presidential Library and Museum.

We may think these things permanent, or once preserved, they are safe and protected. Katrina shows us not so. All the more reason then, to not only preserve our history, but also to enjoy it, and try to instill in our youth, the same passions that drive us. Join us in this year's programs and events. Bring along a friend or neighbor, or better yet, a student.

## LINCOLN MEN AND SONS OF DIXIE

**NAME:** George Wayman

**DATES:** 1836-1917

**ALLEGIANCE:** Union

**RANK:** ? Private

**UNIT:** 61<sup>st</sup> New York, Company H

**RECORD:** Individual record unavailable

George Wayman was born in 1836 in the town of Fulton in Schoharie County. George was a farmer, as were many New Yorkers. He enlisted in the 61<sup>st</sup> New York (the Clinton Guards), which was raised primarily in New York City and Madison County. The 61<sup>st</sup>, a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps fought in the "Wheat field" of the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg.

After the War, George returned to farming in Fulton. He married Fannie Hughes, and the couple had five children - Haldah?, Martin, James, Orson, and Edna. George died on March 2, 1917 at the age of 81. Both he and Fannie are buried in LaSalle Cemetery in East Worster, New York.

The military tradition continued in the family. George's great grandson, Frank Adams of Rotterdam, fought with distinction in the Pacific during World War II. Frank, a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, was directly involved in the liberation of San Tomas University in Manila in the Philippines during 1945.

The two accompanying photographs show George Wayman of the 61<sup>st</sup> New York, and Frank Adams holding the Japanese flag that had flown over the university in Manila during the occupation.



# Civil War Heritage Day

## Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands, New York

### Saturday, October 1, 2005, 10 am - 3 pm

This year marks 140 years since the end of the Civil War. During the four years of war **Albany averaged 13.5 dead and about 50 wounded per month.** In the days following major battles, casualties could hit 4 or 5 times that.

On June 7, 1862, in the midst of the carnage, the Trustees of Albany Rural donated a section named the **Soldiers' and Sailors' Plot** to honor and bury these soldiers. The Trustees resolution read: "a sufficient and suitable piece of ground be set apart to inter the remains of officers and soldiers of the Army of the Union who have fallen or may fall in endeavoring to suppress the present Rebellion." **One hundred and forty-eight** Civil War Veterans were buried in this plot and at least 600 more were buried in family plots throughout the cemetery.

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Monument at Albany Rural contains the names of **648** Albany County residents who "**Died in Action.**" The bronze plates on the monument were cast from a melted down Civil War cannon.

### The schedule for the day will include:

**All Day: Regimental Camp** set up by soldiers from the 125<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 61<sup>st</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment and the 5<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry (Duryea's Zouaves) Regiment and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battery Vermont Light Artillery (they will bring their cannon). See how the soldiers lived.

**10 am to 1 pm: Civil War Tours** will be conducted, both walking tours and horse drawn (there will be a charge for the horse drawn tours).

**10:00 am to 2:00 pm:** The 77<sup>th</sup> NY **Regimental Balladeers** will perform. They are a nationally recognized Civil War music group with several recorded CDs to their credit.

**All Day: Civil War tables and exhibits** will be set up by:

The Capital District Civil War Round Table,  
George L. Willard Camp 154 of the Sons of Union  
Veterans,  
Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway,

New York State Military Museum and Veterans  
Research Center,  
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War,  
79<sup>th</sup> Regiment NYS Volunteers (Cameron Highlanders),  
Albany Rural Cemetery and others.

There will also be a Special Presentation called "**A Lady in Mourning**" – a display of mourning artifacts from the Civil War Period. The **Capital District Blacksmith's Association** will demonstrate ironworking from the Civil War Period. Also, a **special commemorative US Postal Service cancellation** and cachets will be available for sale.

**A Commemorative Service** will be conducted at **2 pm** to honor Civil War dead. The ceremony will include a Civil War Honor Guard, presentation of several dignitaries, Civil War history of Albany Rural, **Invocation** by Chaplain Bill Nieffer of the 125<sup>th</sup> NY, **President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address**, Wreath Laying, Military Volley Salute and Taps. At the conclusion of the service, visitors will be invited to place a flower on the grave of their selected soldier. Flowers will be provided.

**President and Mrs. Lincoln have been invited and they plan to attend.**

For more information call the Cemetery Office: 518-463-7017

This event is **FREE** to the public but we request a \$5 per car donation for parking to offset our expenses. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Please enter the cemetery from the Broadway entrance (across from the Menands Diner) and park where indicated near the gate by the office. Thank you.