

The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 14871 Albany, NY 12212
www.cdcwrt.net



Volume 31, Number 1 January 2014

ROUND TABLE DONATIONS AT $1,233,299 IN ACTUAL & MATCHING FUNDS

2013 DONATIONS

1. **Gettysburg Foundation - $500**
2. **Civil War Trust - $1000 donation for Fleetwood Hill on the Brandy Station Battlefield for a 16.36:1 match yields $16,360**
3. **Civil War Trust - $200 donation for Chancellorsville Battlefield for a 13:1 match yields $2600**
4. **New York State Archives Partnership Trust - $500**
5. **Civil War Trust - $2000 donation for 8 battlefields (Totopotomoy Creek, 2nd Bull Run, Kelly's Ford, High Bridge, Cool Spring in VA; Wyse Fork and Bentonville in NC; Carthage, MO) for a $30.53:1 match yields $61,060**
6. **$100 Stafford County Park, VA (11th Corps winter quarters)**

TOTAL DONATIONS $81,120

Although it was never a goal when the CDCWRT first started donating monies for preservation activities, the goal of one million dollars in actual funds plus matching funds was reached by the end of 2012. Over the years, many people have contributed their time and energies to attain this goal. At the national level, the efforts of the Civil War Trust in brokering matching deals, has received the lion's share of our donations. The estimated cash value of the Round Table's donation is $192,984, which is still very impressive. The match average is just over 6 to 1.

JANUARY MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2014

WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER
1541 BROADWAY
WATERVLIET, NY

"POTPOURRI MEETING"
ELECTIONS
POST-HOLIDAY PARTY

J.J. JENNINGS
BILL SHUEY

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 first meeting of the New Year will occur on Friday, January 10, 2014 at the Watervliet Senior Center. This is our annual Potpourri Meeting where members of the CDCWRT have an opportunity to present a short topic of their choice. Topics may cover an event, a trip, the story behind a photograph, or the presentation of a Civil War artifact or collection. Some members may not want to do a formal presentation, but may exhibit a collection.

This year J.J. Jennings presentation is entitled* "Finding Private Jennings"** ***now that Private Ryan has been found. J.J. always complained about the fact that he seemed to be the only member of the Round Table who did NOT have a relative in the Civil War. Well that has all changed now. J.J. will take us on an adventure which is the true story of how he learned he had a relative in the Late Unpleasantness. Join him as he relates the twists and turns in his journey and missed opportunities and signs before finally finding Private Jennings (kind of like the Hobbit).

Bill Shuey will talk about his relative also. Imagine researching your Civil War relative and then years later attending an antique show, and then discovering that one of the antiques for sale is the grave marker for YOUR relative. Come and hear the story and see the marker!

There may also be some items for display.

POST-HOLIDAY PARTY

Since there will NOT be a Holiday party at the December meeting, there WILL be a party at the Potpourri Meeting in January. If you have left over Christmas cookies or leftover New Year's snacks, please bring them to the Senior Center to share.

ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2014

The nominating committee has proposed:

President: Rosemary Nichols
Vice-President: Art Henningson
Secretary: Erin Baillargeon
Treasurer: Fran McCashion
Program: Matt George
Membership: Mike Affinito
At-Large: Steve Muller
At-Large: Mark Kozial
At-Large: Tom Timmons
President ex-officio: Matt Farina

Non-voting positions include Education (Matt George), Webmaster (Mike Affinito), Historian (Gene Gore), Editor (Matt Farina). Nominations will be accepted from the floor or contact Gene Gore at 518-729-5212 or at ggore@nycap.rr.com.

UP-COMING EVENTS

The following list of up-coming events is provided to help Round Table members plan their long term calendars. These are events that involve our Round Table, especially events that provide opportunities to raise funds for our preservation activities. Some events may change as the year progresses, so members should check the list monthly. Other events have a Civil War connection and are sponsored by other groups. Details of Sesquicentennial Civil War events can be found on the web-site: www.nycivilwar150.org.

During the days from January 15 to February 16, 2014, there is a Civil War-related play opening in New York City at the Women's Project Theatre on West 55th Street. The play is entitled "Row After Row." Ticket price is $60 but a special group rate of $30 each for groups of 9 or more is available. Detail at: www.tickets@womensproject.org.

On February 14, 2014, the CDCWRT will meet at the Senior Center. Our guest speaker will be Paul G. Schneider, and the title of his presentation is "Divided by War: The Confederate Flag that Almost Flew Over Waterford in 1861."

On March 14, 2014, the CDCWRT will meet at the Senior Center. Our guest speaker will be Joanna Ortner, and the title of her presentation will be "Black Women Abolitionists: Frances Harper and Others."

On April 11, 2014, the CDCWRT will meet at the Senior Center. Our special guest speaker will be William Howard, and he will probably talk about Elmer E. Ellsworth. On the eve of the Civil War Ellsworth was working as a clerk in the War Department in Washington, and his life was about to take another turn.

On May 9, 2014, the CDCWRT will meet at the Senior Center. Our guest speaker will be Bob Conner, and the title of his presentation is "General Gordon Granger: The Savior of Chickamauga and the Man Behind Juneteenth." (But you thought General George Thomas was the "Rock of Chickamauga! Come and hear the whole story!)

On June 13, 2014, the CDCWRT will meet at the Senior Center. Our speaker and topic at this time are TBA.

DUES ARE NOW DUE

The CDCWRT operates on the calendar year. This means that the annual dues of $25 for individuals are now due. Treasurer Fran McCashion will be collecting dues at the meeting, or dues can be mailed into the Round Table at the address on the front page. Student and family dues are posted on the last page of the newsletter, and may be discussed with Fran.

Please support your Round Table. Dues cover speakers for regular meetings, the printing and mailing of newsletters, and refreshments. We do NOT use monies from the sale of cachets, t-shirts and books for regular meetings. Those monies fund our preservation activities. Therefore your dues are important.

You can elect to receive your newsletter electronically. The electronic version is in color and may be received as early as a week before the printed version. Moreover, the Round Table saves as much as $2.00 per month per newsletter sent electronically. Stamps are 46-cents and newsletters cost up to 8 pages in printing costs. That does not include the time spent in delivering and picking up newsletters from the printer, folding, taping, stamping and mailing the paper copy. I personally enjoy and keep my hardcopy, but if you just read it once and toss it, please consider an electronic version. You could just print up page 2 which always has the next meeting on it, and stick it on your

refrigerator door to remind you of the next meeting.

Please talk to any Board member if you are interested in an electronic newsletter .

150TH POSTAL CACHETS

The CDCWRT has a supply of postal commemoratives for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and the Gettysburg Address. First Day Covers (FDC) for the new Vicksburg and Gettysburg stamps are $4 each or 3 for $10. If you have no seen either stamp, its because the USPS sold out of their printed supply in August. Most post offices do not have any more, so these will become collectibles.

We have a limited supply of envelopes that were cancelled on the anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. There was one postmark for July 1st, two for July 2nd, and 6 for July 3rd. We have some of each; most are Confederate envelope design. They also are $4 each or 3 for $10. When they are gone, that's it.

We have even fewer envelopes from the 150th Gettysburg Address as well as a few cancelled sheets of the Address. They are $5.00 each.

We still have a very small number of our large, silk-screened envelopes for Vicksburg, Gettysburg and the Address for $10.00 each. There are more of the earlier cancels for First Bull Run, New Orleans and Antietam. These are $8.00 each.

If you don't see items at the meetings, then email Matt Farina at mafarina@aol.com.

BOARD MEETING

The December meeting of the Board of the CDCWRT was held on a frigid 12/16/13. The Treasurer reported $2336.31 in the regular account and $14,191.55 in the preservation account. The Board approved the slate of candidates to be proposed and voted upon in January. The programs for the up-coming year were discussed.

The Board voted to send $2000 to the Civil War Trust for over 1500 acres on 8 different battlefields in a spectacular 30:1 match. A $100 donation was approved for the Friends of Stafford County Civil War Sites in Virginia. Archeological digs are being done on the winter quarters of the Union 11th Corps in Stafford.

CIVIL WAR SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1863

IN GOD WE TRUST

The increased religious sentiment during the Civil War led to the adding of the motto "In God We Trust" to U.S. currency. Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase approved the use of new designs for one, two, and three cent coins with the motto included on Dec. 3, 1863.



"In God We Trust" first appeared on the 1864 two cent coin (shown above), and was later added to other coins as well as paper currency.

THE SEIGE OF KNOXSVILLE

On Dec. 4, Confederate Lt. Gen. James Longstreet abandoned his siege of Knoxville, Tenn., heading northeast. Union

forces under Maj. Gen. John Parke pursued the withdrawing Confederates. A Federal force of about 4,000 infantry and cavalry under Brig. Gen. J.M. Shackelford was met by Longstreet at Bean‟s Station on Dec. 14. After an all day fight, Union forces withdrew. The Confederates suffered about 222 casualties in their victory, and Federal losses totaled 115.

The Knoxville Campaign would end following the battle of Bean„s Station, with Longstreet setting up his winter quarters in Russellville, Tenn.

LINCOLN'S AMNESTY PLAN

On Dec. 8, President Lincoln issued a Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, under which those who were involved in the "rebellion and treason" were offered a pardon.

The offer of pardon was not extended to higher ranking Confederate officials and military men who resigned their U.S. posts to join the Southern effort. In his plan, Lincoln also offered to reinstate any of the seceded states if 10 percent of their citizens who voted in the 1860 election took a loyalty oath to the Federal government and they barred slavery.

GENERAL JOSEPH JOHNSON, CSA

On Dec. 27, Joseph Johnston would be appointed as commander of the Army of Tennessee (the Confederate army named after the state) after Gen. Braxton Bragg‟s resignation. Confederate President Jefferson Davis had first offered the post to William Hardee, the senior corps commander, but Hardee declined the offer.

With Grant called back to Washington to assume command of all Union armies, William Tecumseh Sherman was placed in command of the Union Army of the Tennessee (the Union army named after the river).

This will set up the clash of these two army commanders in the Atlanta campaign in 1864.

OTHER DECEMBER EVENTS.

Also during December 1863, Maj. Gen. Jubal Early would be given command of Confederate forces in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, Union Maj. Gen. John Buford would die of an illness, the Confederate Congress would bar the use of military substitutes, and Confederate spy Belle Boyd would be released from prison after her third arrest.

HE ADVERTIZED FOR LYE

To procure saltpetre for the manufacture of gun-powder, the Confederates had to resort to all kinds of devices, such as leaching the earth from old smoke-houses, barns and caves, and making artificial beds of nitrogenous refuse, having agents for the purpose in every town and city. The agent in Salma, Alabama, was particularly energetic and enthusiastic in the Salma papers:

The Ladies of Salma are respectfully requested to preserve the chamber lye collected about their premises, for the purpose of making nitre. A barrel will be sent around daily to collect it.

JOHN HARROLSON
Agent Nitre and
Mining Bureau

This attracted the attention of one of the army poets, and the first of the two effusions following resulted. It was copied and privately circulated all over the Confederacy, and finally crossing the lines, an unknown Federal poet added the Yankee view of it.

I am re-using this item whichThomas Lowry mentions in his book, ***The Story the Soldiers Wouldn't Tell.*** We all have read or heard about coarse or bawdy stories including Joe Hooker's ladies and the Red Light District in Washington, DC. These things are part of Civil War history. From what I have read about President Lincoln, I feel certain Lincoln had a good laugh when he heard the story of John Harrolson.

The Confederate Effusion

John Harrolson,! John Harrolson! You are a wretched creature;

You've added to this bloody war a new and awful feature;

You'd have us think while every man is bound to be a fighter;

The ladies—bless the dears---should save their P for nitre.

John Harrolson! John Harrolson! Where did you get the notion

To send your barrel 'round the town to gather up the lotion?

We thought the girls had work enough in making shirts and kissing

But you have put the pretty dears to patriotic pissing.

John Harrolson! John Harrolson! Pray, do invent a neater

And somewhat less immodest mode, of making your saltpeter.

For it's an awful idea, John, gun-powdery and cranky,

That when a lady lifts her shift, she's killing off a Yankee.

The Yankee's View of It

John Harrolson! John Harrolson! We've read in song and story,

How woman's tear thro' all the years have moistened fields of glory;

But never was it told before, how 'mid such scenes of slaughter,

Your Southern beauties dried their tears, and went to making water.

No wonder that your boys were brave; who couldn't be a fighter,

If every time he fired his gun he used his sweetheart's nitre?

And, *vice versa,* what could make a Yankee soldier sadder

Than dodging bullets fired by a pretty woman's bladder?

They say there was a subtle smell that lingered in that powder,

And as the smoke grew thicker, and the din of battle louder,

That there was found to this compound one serious objection---

No soldier boy could sniff it without having an e------n.

AND NOW A SERIOUS NOTE

At the Second Inaugural, the president spoke not much longer (than at Gettysburg), perhaps no more than six minutes, but this time the camera was ready, though the image is slightly out of focus. In the finished picture, Lincoln stands on a wooden platform above the steps of the Capitol.

An imaginative eye may see the former slave Frederick Douglass in the front row. Vice President Andrew Johnson, undoubtedly drunk, who has just disgraced himself in his own inaugural speech, is on the platform, as are the pious and ambitious chief justice of the United States, Salmon P. Chase; the serene and cocky secretary of state, William H. Seward; and a host of other tall-hatted, frock-coated men. Beside a

stone buttress, not many feet from the platform, stands the actor John Wilkes Booth.

Carl Sandberg described Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address as "the great American poem." Yet, as must have been evident almost at once to the president's audience, it was not a poem but a sermon.

The Second Inaugural is a sermon on the origins and paradoxes of the Civil War. Its central theme is that "the Almighty has his own purposes." Its central passage is the long paragraph in which Lincoln acknowledges, in an incontrovertible but baffled adverb, that slavery "was somehow the cause of the war" and (he) accepts that the Almighty's purposes may yet require more blood and suffering from both North and South before "this mighty scourge" passes away. The speech's coda is the beautiful paragraph that touches on Lincoln's vision of how "to bind up the nation's wounds," which begins with the famous phrases "With malice toward none; with charity for all."

The grammatical parallelism and balance of the Second Inaugural reflect Lincoln's own precision and balance of mind. The president's repeated use of antithesis --- Charles Sumner said that Lincoln's "ideas moved as the beasts entered Noah's ark, in pairs" --- is a way for him to recognize division and still bring North and South together. "Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God," Lincoln told his audience, "and each invokes his aid against the other."

"Both parties deprecated war; but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would accept war rather than let it perish." Up to now 'war' was being described as the direct object, both grammatically and historically, of the principal actors. Now, recounting the complex motivations that led to war, Lincoln was beginning to suggest that neither side was fully in control. 'War' was about to become the subject rather than the object.

"And," in Lincoln's words, "the war came." Contemporary newspapers report that because of the crowd's cheers, he paused a long time before those four short, heartbreaking words.

A literary critic might add that this is Lincoln's famous 'plain' style at its best, the profound simplicity of utterance that he shares with Mark Twain and Ulysses Grant, two other great 19th- century masters of American prose. Recent historians have pointed to Lincoln's fatalistic, impersonal style as evidence of the essential passivity of his nature. I (Byrd) thinks otherwise. Lincoln's acknowledge-ment of his own passivity is his way of pointing to the larger truth of the activity of God.

"Lots of wisdom in that document, I suspect," Lincoln joked to a friend as he put away a draft of his speech. But he seems to have been very seriously concerned about its effect on his audience. "I saw you in the crowd today, listening to my inaugural address," Lincoln remarked to Frederick Douglass at the White House reception on the night of March 4th. "How did you like it?"

"Mr. Lincoln," Douglass answered, "that was a sacred effort."

This is a book review by Max Byrd.