

The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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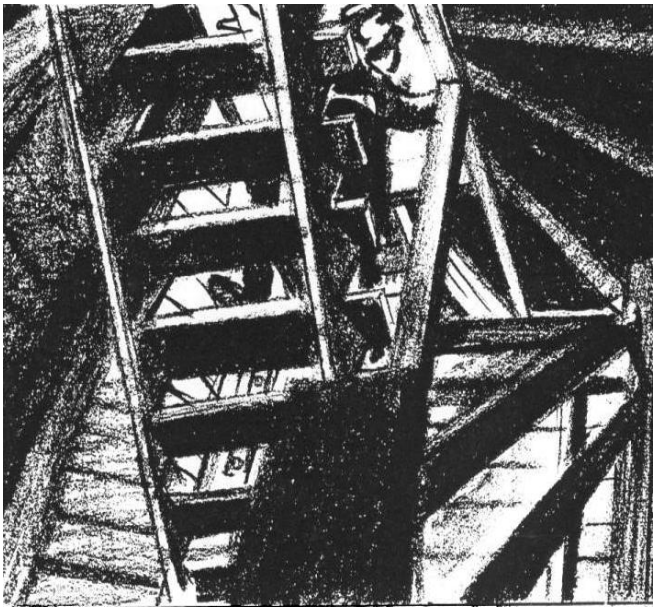
The devil's to pay!

SCENE 31 SHOT 34+2



SCENE 31A SHOT 4



The above illustrations are from the storyboards of the movie, *Gettysburg.* The storyboards were done by Bot Roda of Lancaster, Pa. Quoting from the introduction of a collection of the illustrations, Bot said, "Alfred Hitchcock once made the comment that the creative and most challenging part of making a film was the storyboards." Bot read Michael Shaara's novel in the late 1970's, while an art student and Illustration major at York Academy of Arts. Bot became a Civil War re-enactor in the 1980's, and when he heard that Maxwell was making the movie, he submitted some storyboards. Maxwell was impressed and worked with Bot. The illustration on the left is scripted, "*Extreme angle from below - Buford emerging into the light @ top of the cupola.*" The illustration on the right is scripted, "*Then looks back to attack.*" In the final movie, Buford looks down from the cupola to Gen. John Reynolds, commander of First Corps. Reynolds asks, "What's the matter, John?" With his characteristic sense of brimstone, Buford replied, "The Devil's to pay!"

NOVEMBER MEETING
Friday November 9, 2007
Guilderland Library
2228 Western Ave.

A HISTORY OF THE 115TH NYSVI

SOCIAL HOUR	**6:00-7:00 PM**
BUSINESS	**7:00-7:30 PM**
PRESENTATION	**7:30-8:30 PM**
DISCUSSION	**8:30 – 9:00 PM**

CDCWRT MEETING

The MONTHLY meeting of the CDCWRT will be held at the Guilderland Library on Friday evening,, November 9, 2007. Our guest speaker will be a long-time member of the CDCWRT, Mark Silo. Mark is a new, recently published author, and he will discuss his book on the 115th NYSVI.

This is the full story of the 115th New York, a unit with a unique history among Union Civil War regiments. Fifteen days after departing Fonda, NY, the regiment arrived at Harpers Ferry in 1862. Two days later the unit, along with the 125th from Troy, was part of the largest surrender of U.S. troops before the surrender at Bataan in World War II. The regiment was sent to serve out its parole at Camp Douglas, Chicago, where the unit was convicted en mass for burning its barracks. The unit was subsequently banished to Hilton Head, but was later absolved.

The regiment later fought at Olustee, Florida in February 1864, suffering 296 casualties (51%). In May 1864 it participated in the little known, and unsuccessful, Bermuda Hundred Campaign. Later on June 1, 1864 it was part of the only successful Union penetration at Cold Harbor, Virginia. The regiment later combined with U.S. Colored Troops at the Battle of the Crater and other engagements. The 115th then suffered a 42% loss at Second Deep Bottom, near Richmond in August 1864.

The regiment was then re-assigned, and participated in both expeditions against Fort Fisher near Wilmington, North Carolina. Here it participated in the largest amphibious landing of U.S. troops before Normandy. After the successful assault in January 1865, the 115th was one of three regiments bivouacked over the Fort Fisher powder magazine when it exploded. Fifty-two men were lost in this disaster. Later at Wilmington, the unit helped receive thousands of released POWs from Andersonville and other Confederate prison camps.

Mark's book is based on primary source material from 67 members of the 115th. The regiment is listed in* Fox's Fighting 300, *a distinction based on casualty counts.

Mark Silo is a Civil Engineer with degrees from Notre Dame and Cornell. He currently serves as an Assistant Commissioner for New York State Department of Transportation. He has served as newsletter editor, field trip chairman, treasurer, and vice-president for the CDCWRT. Autographed copies of Mark's book will be available after the meeting.

In last month's newsletter I mentioned our RT boasts two authors. I stand corrected; there are at least five or six, including reviewers for publications.

MONTHLY MEETING

A crowd of approximately 65 was on hand to hear author, Dick Griffin, discuss the history of the 6th New York Independent Battery, which transitioned from infantry support to horse artillery. Dick's great-grandfather served with the unit, and the soldier's diary served at the basis for the book. Afterwards there was a book signing, snacks, and an opportunity to purchase some great used books at obscenely low prices.

BOARD MEETING

The Board Meeting was held on October 15th. It was reported that there was a good crowd at the September picnic, despite a biblical thunderstorm at the beginning of the picnic. The Albany Rural Cemetery Civil War Event was very successful. The weather was perfect with a bright sunny day and mild temperatures. An estimated crowd of two thousand took advantage of the day. The CDCWRT earned $673 from the sale of cachets, books and T-shirts with another $130 in mail order sales. Over 30 people signed up for

complimentary newsletters for three months, two new members joined, and one new member signed up for the Gettysburg trip as a last minute addition.

The meeting agenda for the next several months was discussed. A nominating committee was established to propose a slate for the December meeting. The Round Table will send a letter to the Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery expressing our concern about the proposal to replace the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Board also authorized a $2500 donation to the Lutheran Seminary, which is the repository for the Adams County Historical Society. This will go towards a capital campaign to raise funds for the construction of an appropriate facility to preserve the vast amount of Civil War artifacts at the Seminary. (See story below). The next Board Meeting will be Monday, November 12th.

UP-COMING EVENTS

On Wednesday, November 7th, the Hudson-Mohawk Industrial Gateway will hold its annual Gala at Bush Memorial Center, replete with three Tiffany windows, on the Russell Sage College campus from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. This is a major fund-raiser for the Gateway, and the CDCWRT has managed the silent auction for the past two years. Volunteers are needed to assist in the setting up of the items and in helping match items to bidders after the event. Anyone interested should contact Rosemary Nichols at 273-8746.

November 17th-19th mark Remembrance Day Weekend in Gettysburg. This marks the 144th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. This weekend generally hosts the largest re-enactor crowd of the year. A special postal cancellation will mark the fifth-year anniversary of the Elizabeth Thorn monument, which was created by sculptor and round table member, Ron Tunison. The RT has some motel rooms available but they go quickly. Contact Sue Knost.

Sunday, December 2nd, is the Victorian Stroll in Troy, NY. The CDCWRT will have its usual display in the Troy Post Office, along with a special postal cancellation. A second site will also be manned at The Atrium in downtown Troy.

December 14th, Friday, marks the last meeting of the CDCWRT for 2007. The speaker will be Michael Aikey, from the NYS Military Museum. Mike is a long Round Table member, and he will discuss foreign troops in New York state regiments during the Civil War. This meeting will also be the Round Table's Holiday Meeting. Members are encouraged to bring holiday goodies/snacks for all to share. Prior to the meeting, there will be the election of new officers and board members at our annual elections.

Friday, January 11, 2008 will mark the fist meeting of the new year. This is the annual Potpourri Meeting, where several of our members are invited to make short presentations. Anyone interested in presenting should contact Sue Knost or Rosemary Nichols. This is also T-shirt Night and Show and Tell Night for display of Civil War related artifacts.

MISCELLANEOUS

OF HOOVES AND SHOES:
Two Controversies at Gettysburg

Excerpted form "The Gettysburg Magazine," issue number 36, Paul Clark Cooksey, author

Is there a code for the hooves of horses on the equestrian statues which indicates whether the general riding the horse was killed, wounded, or survived the battle unscathed?

There are eight equestrian monuments at Gettysburg. They are Lee's, Longstreet's, Meade's, Hancock's, Howard's, Reynolds', Sedgwick's and Slocum's. Each of these monuments is on a pedestal with the exception of Longstreet's, which is exempted from this discussion. The code is as follows: if two hooves are up, the general was killed, if one hoof is up, the general was wounded, and if all four hooves are on the ground, the general was unharmed. This code exists only for Gettysburg! Since it takes only one white crow to prove all crows are not black, proving that one equestrian had no plan for a code would discredit the claim that the code was premeditated. There are two examples.

An examination of the dedication speeches for the equestrian monuments would show whether the code

was planned or just a coincidence. The decision for Slocum's statue was conceived in 1894. By early 1897, the designs of nine artists were reviewed, but were not felt to be satisfactory. The artists were requested to submit new designs. By October 1897, eighteen models from seventeen artists were reviewed. Five of the artists were requested to submit a full sized plaster model. Nowhere in the discussion of the models of the Slocum statue was there notice that the statue had to be tailored to a European code.

Sedgwick's statue's dedication is even more overt as to there being no code. The sculptor wrote a very detailed memorandum about the design. Is it logical to think that the sculptor would not have mentioned it, if there was a code based on European tradition? In the Hanover **Herald** *newspaper on June 14, 1913, an article attempted to definitely establish the existence of a code. A response from Bureau Brothers of Philadelphia, who had erected a number of equestrian statues including the Sedgwick monument, indicated that the standing on different feet 'has no meaning.'*

The Gettysburg code then is a coincidence with the European code. While it was not planned, the code exists! The statue to Reynolds has two hooves up, and he was killed, while the statue to Hancock is seen with one hoof up, and he was wounded. The other five have all hooves on the ground, and they were not killed or wounded. It was just not a planned code. As long as the visitor understands that it was created purely by coincidence and not purposefully planned, there is no reason not to inform the visitor of the code. The code will help the visitor in the understanding of the battlefield.

THERE WAS NO SHOE FACTORY AT GETTYSBURG!

This statement however, does not preclude the fact that shoes may have played an important role in bringing on the Battle of Gettysburg.

The mention of shoes originated from Maj. Gen. Henry Heth's after action battle report on September 13, 1863, where he wrote that on June 30, 1863 he sent some troops to Gettysburg "to search the town for army supplies (shoes especially) and return the same day." He repeated this claim again in 1877 in the **Southern Historical Society Papers**. *Heth wrote, "Hearing that a supply of shoes was to be obtained in Gettysburg, eight miles distance from Cashtown, and greatly needing shoes for my men, I directed General Pettigrew to go to Gettysburg and get these supplies." Heth again repeated this claim in his memoirs.*

Critics of the shoe claim argue two points. Heth's approach towards Gettysburg was June 30th, and not on July 1st. A.P. Hill wrote that Confederate Third Corps approached Gettysburg on July 1 to discover what Union troops were in their front. Thus, Hill was not looking for shoes.

This argument is spurious and misses the point. Hill's quest for information about the Union position and Heth's need for shoes are NOT mutually exclusive! Research on individual histories of Confederates at Gettysburg discovered more references than normally occurs of Confederates needing shoes. Others have argued that since Lee did not want to provoke an engagement and had issued orders against taking offensive action, Heth's claim can be viewed as an attempt to avoid criticism of his actions. However, to avoid criticism, there has to be potential criticism. No criticism of Heth's action seems to exist - - - not by Heth's peers or superiors. The Confederates came away from the fighting on July 1 with the feeling they had one a major victory. They felt that Ewell's failure to continue the attack on the evening of July 1, ultimately lost the battle.

Over the years, Heth's simple statement has ballooned into a factory. In the same issue of **The Gettysburg Magazine**, *there is a second article by author, Wiley Sword, entitled, "We're Going to Get Those Shoe," that lends considerable support to the shoe issue.*

On the evening of June 30, 1863 at Cashtown, when corps commander, A.P. Hill arrived, a discussion occurred between Heth, Pettigrew and Hill about the day's events. Although Pettigrew felt that the cavalry he had observed near Gettysburg was organized and was likely part of the Army of the Potomac, both Hill and Heth were skeptical. Hill believed the enemy cavalry encountered were merely a "detachment of observation." Heth allegedly asked if Hill had any objection to taking his division to Gettysburg the following morning "to get those shoes." Hill responded favorably, saying that so far as his

objections, "he had none in the world." Hill had just come from a conference with Lee, who at the time was intent on concentrating his army in the vicinity of Gettysburg and/or Cashtown per information that Meade's army was on the move north. Occupying Gettysburg on July 1 would serve two purposes for Hill: Heth could obtain the supply of shoes and other military supplies felt to be there, and also secure the town for the coming Confederate troop concentration. A whole division, but with only a small amount of artillery, was sent so as to easily take the town and out-flank any enemy troops that might be there.

Fortunately, a newly discovered Confederate document, in the collection of Wiley Sword, further explains the basic reason for this high profile "shoe expedition." Written by Maj. Henry C. Deshields, Quartermaster of Heth's division, this invoice is at the very focal point of the critical events resulting in the by-chance meeting combat that began the Battle of Gettysburg.

Invoice of Q master's stores this day turned over to Capt J. L. Powers, A.q.m., 22nd Va. Battn.

List of Articles	**Price**
(1) One Hat	
(2) One Pair shoes	
(29) Twenty Nine pairs cloth shoes	**$6.00**

Camp at Cashtown, Pa. H.C. Deshields, Maj.
June 30, 1863 Q.M. Heth's Brig.

This invoice specifically records the issue of only ONE pair of leather shoes, and TWENTY-NINE pairs of "cloth shoes," to the 22nd Virginia Battalion Infantry. Clearly revealed is the great shortage of and need for leather shoes in Lee's army following the grueling march over the mountains from Virginia. The cloth shoes were a temporary expediency. Heth's men needed good quality shoes, as soon as possible. The prospect of finding shoes was a compelling reason to attempt to get to Gettysburg, especially since the rumor had it that many shoes were there. Fate then intervened in turning the foray for shoes into one of the most decisive and important battles of the War.

Long overlooked for its true significance, this rather mundane Confederate note reflects the "hidden history" to be found in some of our most meaningful, if less obvious historical documents.

OUR GETTYSBURG TRIP

The weather was perfect, and Greg was our bus driver. Thus began the Columbus Day weekend fall trip. Enroute we viewed several CD's and Stacey gave a synopsis of the first day activities. Arriving at Gettysburg, we were treated to a behind the scene opportunity to see a fraction of the collection of artifacts that the Park Service holds in storage. These included medical kits, uniforms, hats, original prints and architectural drawings of monuments. This was followed by a drive-by tour of the new visitor center with two members of the park service, who are involved in the selection of exhibit material for the new visitor center.

At the banquet that night we listened to an excellent presentation by Scott Mingus, who spoke about local events and the response of the region to Lee's invasion. Among the actions taken was the protection of bridges over the Susquehanna River, and the removal of military supplies to guarded areas. Among the supplies removed was a railroad car filled with SHOES!

Saturday we loaded up with park guide, Kavin Coughenour, to follow Gen. Longstreet's march on July 2nd to get into position to attack up the Emmitsburg road. Lee had sent two members of his engineering staff to scout out the Round Tops at 2:00 a.m. on July 2nd. They either missed portions of the Union Twelfth Corps camped nearby, or scouted another hill, Bushman Hill. At 9:00 a.m. Lee visits Ewell and orders him to attack Culp's Hill when he hears Longstreet's cannons. Longstreet had not yet cmoved by 11:00 a.m. because he was waiting for the rest of his divisions to arrive on the field. At noon, Longstreet begins to move.

Porter Alexander was sent ahead with the artillery. Near Black Horse Tavern he realized his march would be visible to Union observers, and he quickly scouted a farm road that took him to his appointed positions without being observed. Later the infantry followed with Longstreet. At the same spot Longstreet and his staff missed the farm road, and began a counter-march that was observed. Kavin explored the possible reasons for Longstreet's actions. The general was following Lee's orders in detail. In order to place his

two divisions in exactly the position Lee requested, Longstreet ordered his lead division to double back on the whole column, rather than simply reversing the whole column and marching back. Union signal corps staff saw Longstreet's countermarch to the NORTH. This whole maneuver occurs from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and during that time, Union Third Corps was moved forward to the peach orchard. This forceed Longstreet to modify Lee's original plan on the fly, and to attack Devil's Den and the Round Tops. Lee's flank attack becomes an echelon attack.

After Lunch at the Dobbins House, it was back to July 2nd, but now with park guide, Charlie Fennell, we follow the Third Corps. Meade's orders to Sickles were to maintain contact with Second Corps on your right, and anchor your left in the vicinity of Little Round Top. Sickles saw the peach orchard in front of him as an artillery platform for the Confederates. He stretched Meade's orders, and moved Third Corps forward ¾'s of a mile as a salient. However, we now could see the view that Gen. Dan Sickles had, now that many acres of new growth trees have been removed from the battlefield. We went to the peach orchard and saw the area that Sickles had to defend. We saw where Bigelow's battery retreated by recoil and where Sickles was wounded. We finished the day with a better appreciation of Sickle's decision, and a whole bag full of "what ifs."

Sunday included a final look at the old electric map before it gets dismantled. Some of us toured the Eisenhower Farm while others had a walking tour of Pickett's Charge and the Union defense at the high water mark. We stopped at the 20th Maine Monument where Stacey quoted from memory, Chamberlain's moving words spoken at the dedication of the monument.

On Monday we went to the Lutheran Seminary and met Wayne Motts. He and his staff reviewed the fighting around the seminary on July 1. This dove-tailed nicely with the information in the novel, ***Valor Wore a Green Sash,*** discussed by Don Johnson at the September CDCWRT meeting. We were then shown some items from the vast collection of the Adams County Historical Society which occupies the historical Lutheran seminary. The entire photographic collection of William Tipton is stored here, including 3000 Gettysburg photographs. I was allowed to handle the amputation kit of Confederate surgeon, Dr. Means of the 11th Georgia. We saw the last will and testament of President Dwight David Eisenhower. We then went in small groups up to THE CUPOLA of the seminary. From this tower, Gen. Buford shouted down to Gen. Reynolds. It is probable that Gen. Lee also went up to the cupola to view the battlefield. Wayne informed us we were the FIRST round table to ever go up to the tower.

After the tour we visited the Peace Monument and then headed home. We watched the movie, Gettysburg, on the trip home.



The unit suffered a 10% casualty rate during the excursion. Typical of Civil War woundings, head and extremities were most common. No amputations were necessary.

ELECTIONS IN DECEMBER

Our annual elections will be held at the start of the December meeting. Any member in good standing may run for any office. The nominating committee has a proposed slate of officers.

President	J.J. Jennings
Vice-President	Lew Warner
Treasurer	Fran McCashion
Secretary	Rosemary Nichols
At-Large	Mary Ellen Johnson
At-Large	open
At-Large	open

If you are interested in running for an At-Large position, please contact Joe Stracuzzi at 229-9089.