



# 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 18 Number 8**

**APRIL, 2001**

The April Meeting  
Saturday April 21, 2001

GUILDERLAND PUBLIC  
LIBRARY  
ROUTE 20 WESTERN AVE.  
GUILDERLAND, NY

SOCIAL HOUR           6:00 P.M.  
BUSINESS MEETING   7:00 P.M.  
PRESENTATION        7:30 P.M.

## CDCWRT MEETING

*The next regular meeting of the Round Table will be Saturday night, April 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Ramada-Sovereign Inn at 6:00 P.M. Our speaker will be Clark B. Hall, and his presentation is entitled, DAY OF DEATH, DAY OF VICTORY: THE DEMISE OF STUART AND THE ASCENT OF SHERIDAN.*

*'Bud' Hall is well known to the CDCWRT, having spoken several years ago on the Battle of Brandy Station. Bud is widely regarded as the most knowledgeable person in the U.S. on this famous and largest cavalry battle that opened the Gettysburg campaign. Although the Confederates held the field after the battle, they were shocked by the Union cavalry aggressiveness and tenacity. The Union cavalry was changing and maturing, and Brandy Station was a tremendous boost to the morale of the Yanks.*

*The Battle of Yellow Tavern, May 11, 1864, was the end of Lee's Corps commanders of the original Army of Northern Virginia. Jackson died after Chancellorsville in 1863, and Longstreet was seriously wounded at the Wilderness. Now just a few days later, Stuart was mortally wounded at Yellow Tavern.*

*If you are wondering why the banquet is so late this year, look at your heating bill to realize that winter is hanging on. If we had the banquet in March, it would have been the same weekend of the snowstorm (see below) and the Saturday conference on women during the Civil War. Additionally, since March did NOT come in like a lion and leave like a lamb, we can fully expect April to be the lion! Moreover, Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup> is Passover, and Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> is Easter. Therefore our Spring? Banquet will be April 21<sup>st</sup>.*

*There will be cachets and Civil War ephemera for sale (see below in miscellaneous section) and of course our book raffle. There will be three select books from Norm Sebastian's library as raffle prizes. In addition, there will be other personalized books from Norm's collection that will be for sale. Raffle tickets will be available at the banquet at \$2.00 apiece or three for \$5.00. Why not buy a few and support preservation efforts?*

## CDCWRT NEWS

### MARCH MEETING

Thanks to the jet stream and global warming, our March meeting was canceled just hours before it was to take place. This message was transmitted by e-mail, phone, and our web site in case anyone missed the 'end of the world' weather forecasts on most stations. Unfortunately, the storm was delayed a few hours, and a small crowd of die-hards turned up at the library. But to show you the depth of experience and commitment in our membership, Dave Wilcox gave an impromptu presentation on the salvage of the *Hunley* submarine. Those who know Dave well, realize that he never travels without his *Hunley* scrapbook. Dave also got the award for the member who traveled the

farthest distance---namely Maine. In fact, Dave is our only member who LIVES in Maine!

All fifteen present enjoyed his presentation.

**THANKS DAVE!**

Locally, March was a very busy month for the Civil War. **Allen Ballard** gave several readings from his book *Where I'm Bound*, at various libraries in the area.. **Joe Stracuzzi** was highlighted in an article in the Guilderland Spotlight about the Civil War soldier and how he lived in the field. Joe, **Matt George, Brandon Schechter, Sue Knost and Howard Young** presented a similar program at the Guilderland middle school on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, which was attended by over 100 young enthusiasts.

Finally, the Women's History Month Conference on March 10<sup>th</sup> featured New York women and the Civil War era. Speakers included **Matt Farina, William and Nellie Edmonston, Michael Barrett, and Christine Robinson** from the Brookside Museum. Although attendance was light, the presentations were excellent and were appreciated by the audience.

## BOARD MEETING

The March Board Meeting was held on Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup> at Holmes & Watson's in Troy. The treasurer's report noted about \$650 in the general account, and about \$8000 in the preservation account. The last Tunison sculpture for the RT was sold quickly after it was advertised in the newsletter.

A thank you letter was received from the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, Inc., and is excerpted below.

*Speaking for the board of directors of Save Historic Antietam Foundation, I am stunned. Your latest donation, a total of \$6710 is the largest single gift we have ever received. Not only are you the first CWRT to respond to our call, yours is the most generous gift we have ever received from any CWRT.... Your gift will make our task of raising money to buy the famous signal tower site much easier.*

*We will feature an article in our newsletter about your gift, and we'll issue a press release to **Civil War News** as well.... We will make it a point to mention that the fund is named for our good friend John Hennessy. As you know, he was very special to our organization while he was here in Maryland. It is very appropriate that you honor him in this way.*

*With warm regards,*

*Tom Clemens*

*President, SHAF*

Details of the April banquet were also discussed, including the decision about how to best use the collection of books that were donated to the RT by Norm Sebastian. The next Board Meeting will be April 19<sup>th</sup>.

## PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

*By Tom Smith*

This month represents the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth on May 24, 1861. I wanted to share with you some information about it as reported in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* of June 1, 1861.

Ellsworth was born in Saratoga County, New York State, on April 23, 1837. His early adult life took him to New York, Boston, and Chicago. Later, moving to Springfield, Illinois, he became a student in Mr. Lincoln's law office. As a close friend of the president-elect, he accompanied the Lincolns on their tour to Washington. Upon the "breaking out of the present trouble," Ellsworth went to New York where he raised a regiment of 1,100 firemen, and outfitted them in uniforms and drilled them in the style of the French Zouaves of the Crimean War. They became known as the New York Fire Zouaves and were stationed in Washington.

Colonel Ellsworth was ordered to occupy Alexandria, Virginia, on Friday, May 24, 1861. At about 6:00 a.m. that day, "passing with a handful of his men, the Marshall House, he saw

a Secession flag waving above it. On the spur of the moment he entered the hotel, saying that he must have the flag.” After trampling the torn down flag and beginning to leave the hotel, Ellsworth and his contingent encountered James E. Jackson, the proprietor.

Jackson, armed with a double-barreled shotgun, shot Ellsworth in the left breast, causing a fatal wound. Corporal Francis E. Brownell of Troy, among Ellsworth’s men, then shot Jackson in the head and ran him through with his bayonet. This event drew a crowd of people that included Jackson’s widow. “Her cries at the sight were heart rending, and affected the Zouaves so deeply, that forgetting their own danger, they endeavored to soothe and comfort her affliction.”

Ellsworth’s murder “was justly looked upon as a great calamity, and the flag at half-mast in city, town and village over thousands of miles, North, East, and West, attested at once the estimation of the promise of the man and profound sorrow for his loss.” His body was prepared to lie in state in the East Room of the White House; displayed in the Governor’s Room at City Hall, New York; and buried in Mechanicsville in upstate New York.

## Web Site News

*By Jon Olson*

As you may know, the number of visitors to the Web site since April 1999 recently went over the 15,000 mark! The number of visitors to the site has been increasing at the rate of about 1000 every 7-8 weeks. There are two major reasons contributing to this rapid escalation: 1) I have registered our site with several search engines and, 2) on an ongoing basis, I have been asking other Webmasters to link to our site.

I have submitted our site for registration with the following six search engines via a free registration service: Alta Vista, Excite, Infoseek, Lycos, Webcrawler and Google. The submittals to Alta Vista, Infoseek and Google have been successful. In each case, our site is linked on the first page when you do a search for the “Capital

District Civil War Round Table.” In fact, on Infoseek and Google we’re THE first hit on the page. If you’d like to see what one sees when they do a search for us, go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and enter “Capital District Civil War Round Table” in the search box (use the quotes). Unfortunately, the registrations with Excite, Lycos and Webcrawler have not yet been processed. I have followed up with the service on our status with these three search engines, but I haven’t received a response yet. It can take several weeks to process a registration.

On an ongoing basis I have been asking fellow Webmasters to link to our site and, in turn, I reciprocate. It’s pretty difficult to get a handle on the exact number of Web sites that have linked to ours. But if you are interested in identifying some of them, go to [www.altavista.com](http://www.altavista.com) and do a search for “links:www.timesunion.com/communities/cdcwr” (without the quotes). I estimate there are a couple of dozen additional links to our site that won’t show up in a search. For Just a few examples of such links, you can check out: [www.gettysburgbattlefieldonline.com](http://www.gettysburgbattlefieldonline.com), [www.civilwarnews.com](http://www.civilwarnews.com), [www.Angelfire.com/ny/4/mattscivilwar/](http://www.Angelfire.com/ny/4/mattscivilwar/), and finally, [phoenixdigitalservices.com/125thNYVI.html](http://phoenixdigitalservices.com/125thNYVI.html).

Finally, remember that I’m always looking for new material for the Web site. If you have original material or news about your Civil War related activities which you would like to share, please pass it along to me, preferably as an e-mail attachment. to: [jonolson@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jonolson@nycap.rr.com). If you don’t have access to a computer, please mail hardcopy to me at P.O. Box 671, Newtonville, NY 12128-0671.

## CDCWRT HISTORY/TRIVIA

*By Fran McCashion, Historian*

Civil War Trivia Pursuit was created by Bob Mulligan, and was first printed in Vol.1, #2, January 1985 of *The Dispatch*. **ANSWERS**

- In what action would you expect to find-
  - a. The Dictator –*Petersburg Siege*
  - b. Old Sacramento–*Pea Ridge*

- c. Whistling Dick-*Vicksburg Siege*
- d. Swamp Angel-*Charleston Siege*

- *Charles Candy* and *Thomas L. Kane* fought together in what famous battle?-*Gettysburg*
- There were six general officers whose last name began with the letter **Z**. Can you name any? *Louis Zabo, 2nd Bri.,Cav. Div., Army of the Ohio; George Ziegler, 32<sup>nd</sup> USCT; George Zion, 57<sup>th</sup> Pa.; Flex K. Zollicoffer, CSA; Samuel K. Zook, 1<sup>st</sup> Div., 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, Army of the Potomac; Samuel Zulick, 29<sup>th</sup> Pa.*
- **NEW C.W. TRIVIA QUESTIONS FOR APRIL**
- Who rode
  - a. Lexington and Sam
  - b. Winchester and Rienzi
  - c. Old Baldy
  - d. Cincinnati, Jack, Fox, Kangaroo and Jeff Davis
- I was the daughter of one President and the wife of another. Who am I?

## UP-COMING EVENTS.

Last year on Memorial Day Weekend, the Tryon family of South Bethlehem held an event called **Freedom Fest 2000**, to honor veterans of all U.S. wars and to celebrate the freedoms they fought to preserve. The activities included Revolutionary War demonstrations, essay contests for students of all grades, live country music entertainment, dancing, cannons, bands, fireworks, and food. If anyone would like to see the program, contact Matt Farina.

This year's **Freedom Fest 2001, May 26-27**, promises to be bigger yet. Additional new events will include a classic car show, flea market, hay rides, National Guard Color Guard and flyover, re-enactors including Abe Lincoln, Uncle Sam, Patrick Henry, and George Washington. The CDCWRT has been invited to participate in the

event and we will be there with information table, display tables, and of course cachet sales. We are looking for volunteers to staff our tables and we want to encourage all our members to consider attending the event. Put it on your calendars now. More details will follow.

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Our May meeting will be on **Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**, and our featured speaker will be Paul Cimbala, who will talk on the Veteran's Reserve Corps. The **June 8<sup>th</sup>** meeting will feature our own Troy historian, Michael Barrett. He will discuss the Troy draft riot of 1863, the second most destructive draft riot in the nation.

**Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**, marks the annual open house of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Resource Center at Peebles Island. There are Revolutionary War earthworks on the island and a picnic area. Examples of the preservation of paintings, metal works, textiles and papers will be presented. The CDCWRT will also have an information table and will be sponsoring a stamp cancellation.

Michael Russert's presentation on Major General Henry Slocum was canceled due to the snowstorm. He will be rescheduled sometime later this year. Finally, our picnic will be **Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**IT'S WORKING!** A full column appeared in the March newsletter of the Old Baldy CWRT of Philadelphia, entitled *Who's The Best*. The editor compares Old Baldy with CDCWRT in regards to years in existence, meetings and newsletters per year, dues, etc. The last sentence reads, "Their CWRT has 16 officers and staffers, and 190 members, and the CDCWRT does fund-raising at many major Civil War events throughout the year. Hmm...Maybe we *do* have some work to do, after all."

It has been our hope that we could stimulate other round tables to take up the challenge,

become more active in recruitment of new members, consider fund raising strategies, and increase their commitment to preservation and education. Just think if every CWRT in the country could contribute an average of \$300 to a preservation goal each year. That could be perhaps 700 x 200 or \$210,000 per year. Ed, I hope you are reading this. Good Hunting Old Baldy.

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The Gettysburg Spring Muster was a success with the weather cloudy, but without rain. A \$500 donation was made to the Photo Archives at Gettysburg in addition. To give you an idea about how much of a bargain the trip was, I saw an advertisement for a spring bus trip from the Alexandria, Virginia CWRT to Spotsylvania Court House on April 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a day trip with box lunch for \$70.00. Congratulations again to "frugal" Sue Knost for a great three-day trip to Civil War Mecca that included bus, box lunches, motels, banquet and tour guides for \$199.

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. Anyone interested in obtaining canceled cachets for this and other events should order them from Matt Farina or Sue Knost. The orders will be filled at the banquet or after the meeting. If you would like the order mailed to you, please include \$1.00 more for postage.

- First Night -Celebrate the Century Express
- First Night – Albany Skyline
- Lincoln's Gettysburg Address-cancelled in GB
- Hillary Clinton-1<sup>st</sup> woman US Senator NYS
- Victorian Stroll December 2000
- Covermania #3-Albany Skyline
- Veterans' Day 2000
- Legends of Baseball single cachets

These cachets are \$3.00 apiece, or 2 for \$5.00. Buy two and get a **FREE** postal commemorative book or a CD of Native American music in addition.

The RT was able to acquire some cancellations from the centennial of the Civil War. These will be sold in pairs with newer cachets for \$5.00.

The older cancellations are at least 35 years old and will make unique items or gifts. The pairs all vary. An example is:

-Lincoln's GB address & a centennial Lincoln cancellation.

The RT also has obtained on consignment several CW items (ephemera) with older cancellations. Among the items are:

- 4/18/71 Lincoln 4 cent cancellation @ \$5.00
- 2/12/59 Lincoln 1 cent cancellation @ \$5.00
- all 5 centennial stamps on large card @ \$10
- 5/17/69 first day of issue of Memphis stamp, program signed by last living Confederate widow @ \$20.00 (she was still alive in 2000!)
- 2/27/59 first day of issue of Lincoln 3 cent stamp, program commemorates 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's address at Cooper Union @ \$20.00
- 7/1/63 canceled centennial mailer GB at \$5.00

By comparison, I have a catalog from Real US History.Com in which you can purchase centennial envelopes with first day of issue stamps for \$20.00 *apiece*.

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### **BOOKS, BOOKS, AND MORE BOOKS**

We still have copies of several books at significant discount. These can also be ordered, or purchased at the banquet.

- Where I'm Bound* – Allen Ballard, signed \$20
- Pickett's Charge in History and Memory* – Carol Reardon, \$20
- Charlie's Civil War* – Brand Livingstone, \$20
- Lee's Retreat-A Field Guide*, Chris Caulkins, signed \$8
- The Civil War in Depth*, Bob Zeller, 3-D photographic history, 1<sup>st</sup> volume \$18, 2<sup>nd</sup> volume \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> volume \$18, all three \$45.

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If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then the CDCWRT is being flattered in a big way. A conference on Civil War Photography will take place this August in Gettysburg. The meeting idea, agenda, and most of the speakers

are the same as the November conference that the RT sponsored.

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The Annual Full Duty Award Banquet of the Vermont Civil War Council will be held in Montpelier, Vt. On Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Member of our RT have attended the banquet the past two years, staying overnight at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. The speakers are excellent, the food superb, raffle prizes that have included muskets and sabers, and the opportunity to meet many new CW friends. Anyone interested in going should contact Sue Knost, or write David Cross. 289 Upper Old Town Trail, Charlotte, VT 05445. Tickets are \$25 a peice.