



The Dispatch

Newsletter of the

Capital District Civil War Round Table

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

CDCWRT's web site: www.cdcwrt.org

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October 2004



**OCTOBER
MEETING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
OCTOBER 29TH & 30TH**

**RENSSELAER COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
57 SECOND STREET
TROY, NY**

CDCWRT MEETING

The October meeting of the Round Table will NOT be held on October 8th. Instead, we are supporting the Rensselaer County Historical Society's conference about "BEYOND THE BATTLE: HOW WAR AFFECTED UPSTATE NEW YORK." The symposium begins at 1:00 pm on Friday October 29th, and continues at 9:00 am on Saturday October 30th. Enclosed in this newsletter is the program an registration. One of the speakers is CDCWRT member, Chris Kolakowski, who will talk on Saturday on, "Margaret Nims and WWI Memorials in Europe."

We encourage the membership to attend the Symposium and see the exhibit at the Historical Society. Seating is limited. Registration can be by mail, by phone at 518-272-7273 ext. 17, or on the web at www.rchsonline.org/Fallsymposium.htm.

UP-COMING EVENTS

CIVIL WAR FILM FESTIVAL AND LECTURE SERIES will continue on Wednesday, October 20th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Guilderland Public Library. The feature movie will be the film, **DRUMS OF THE DEEP SOUTH**. A speaker is

being arranged. The movie, **SHENANDOAH**, has been moved to November.

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Friday, October 15th through Sunday, October 17th, will be the celebration of the **140th anniversary of the Battle of Cedar Creek in Middletown, Virginia**. The re-enactment will occur on the actual battlefield. The Round Table will be present at this event, which promises to be sizeable. Anyone interested in working with the RT should contact Sue Knost or Joe Stracuzzi.

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CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND CELEBRATION will occur on Saturday, November 13th. The guest speaker for our Fall Dinner will be none other than our own John Hennessy. His name is attached to our preservation fund because John helped focus our activities on preservation. He headed the preservation committee when he was a member of the RT living in the Albany area. John is an author, historian for the National Park Service, preservationist and friend.



Usually we have a Civil War conference the same weekend as our banquet. This year we will link with the New York State Military

Heritage Museum, which has a Civil War event on the same weekend.

On Friday, November 12th, the Museum will unveil a Zouave flag exhibit at the Capital. There will be a tour of the Capital at 2:00pm, and then a reception, which the Round Table will host, from 4:00 to 6:00pm. On Saturday, November 13th, at the Military Museum in Saratoga there will be a conference on the Zouaves, including Duryee's Zouaves. There will be exhibits including Elmer Ellsworth's coat, which he was wearing when he was killed in Alexandria, Virginia. There will also be a living history Zouave exhibit. In addition there will be curator's tours of other new exhibits, including the gun vault and a spectacular U.S. Grant painting. More details will appear in subsequent newsletters.

Two short Zouave books members might want to read before the meeting are *A Duryee Zouave* by Thomas P. Southwick (with an introduction by Brian C. Pohanka), and *Out of the Wilderness* by Cpl. Norton C. Shepard (edited by Raymond W. Smith of the CDCWRT).

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Remembrance Day at Gettysburg will commemorate the 141st anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. This year activities will begin on Thursday, November 18th through Sunday, November 21st. As in the past, the Round Table will have a presence at the activities. Anyone interested in attending, and needing a room, should contact Sue Knost. The Round Table generally has a block of rooms at the Quality Inn next to the battlefield.

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The Victorian Stroll in Troy will be held on Sunday, December 5th. The Round Table will have an information table at the Troy Post Office as usual. Volunteers are needed to meet the public and talk about their interest in the Civil War and the Round Table.

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The last meeting of the calendar year will be our December Meeting and Holiday Party at the Guilderland Library on Friday, December 10th. There will also be the election of new officers and board members. The topic for the meeting will be "How the U.S. Navy Won the American Civil War." Our speaker will be Chuck Veit, President of the Navy and Marine living History Association. He will also talk briefly about the "USS Alligator – the First Submarine." This promises to be a never-before-discussed topic for our Round Table.

ODDS AND ENDS

The July 2004 issue of *The Gettysburg Magazine* is available through the Round Table for \$5.00. There is an article on the 126th NYVI of Willard's Brigade. There will also be a selection of Civil War books for sale.

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Last month's trivia question: Where is the following quote found?

"No refuge could save the hireling and slave from the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave."

Answer: This is from the third stanza of the Star-Spangled Banner. There were no winners last month.

You may have seen this in one of the local papers, but if not, **here's the story on number one in the West Point Class of 1829. You may recall that Robert E. Lee graduated second in that class.**

Charles Mason, born in New York in 1804, entered the Academy in 1825. After graduation he served as an engineering instructor at West Point. He later attended law school and practiced in Newburgh and in New York City. He was editor of the *New York Evening Post*.

Mason moved to the Wisconsin Territory and was later appointed first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Iowa Territory by President Martin Van Buren. Mason did not serve in the military during the Civil War, but was opposed to slavery. He died in Burlington, Iowa in 1882.

JOE'S JOTTINGS

Remember, you do not have to be a member of the CDCWRT to participate in any of our activities. If you get our three months of complimentary newsletters, or hear about us from a friend, feel free to join us.

Remember, if your dues date on your mailing label ends with **DD**, your **dues are due**.

The following addresses are for the relatives of two of our members who are serving their country in Hell.

**LCPL WARREN WIEBOLT
(ORDINANCE)
MALS 16
UIC41016
FPOAP964261061**

ISG WAYNE M. WARD

**AVNTF03-17
C.CO 1-10
3-2SBCT
APO AE 09385**

Warren is Rosemary Nichols' son, and Wayne is Ken Ward's son and Lyn Talbot's brother. Both of these warriors would like reading material, preferably magazines, to share with their pards. We all have some good magazines that we think we will read again sometime, and never do. Please bring them to the Round Table, or mail them on your own, with a letter or note enclosed, thanking them.

Elections will be held at our December meeting. If you would like to run for an office, call me at 371-0449, and leave a message on my machine before November 1, 2004. A slate will be presented, but nominations at large can be entered at the December meeting.

Joe Stracuzzi

BOARD MEETING

The meeting was held on September 27th. The Treasurer's report indicated that the Irish Fest in Altamont was quite successful, despite the wet weather. A striking T-shirt was made for the event, a dark green shirt with the letterhead of the stationary of the Irish Brigade in gold on the front of the shirt. The shirts will be available to members of the RT for \$12, and \$15 for non-members. The RT grossed \$975 for the day. The Board voted unanimously to offer a very special thanks to Lew Warner for his organization of the Table's successful participation in this event. The report indicates \$878 in the general fund account, and almost \$16,000 in the preservation account. A large portion of this will be

distributed to various preservation activities by the end of the year.

Praise was also given to Matt George for his well-received presentation at Community Day at Mohonasen High School.

Officer and Board member elections will be held at the December meeting. Our charter requires a slate be proposed sixty days before the election. Proposed is the following:

President – Matt George
Vice-President – Lew Warner
Treasurer – Joe Stracuzzi
Secretary – Rosemary Nichols
At-Large – Mary Ellen Johnson
Mike Spaulding
Fran McCashion

Program Chair, Sue Knost, discussed the schedule for the rest of year as the Round Table celebrates its 20th year. The October trip will be a bus trip to Washington, DC on Friday and Saturday, covering Arlington Cemetery, the Lee Mansion (including the grave of Private Tanner), and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There will be an evening monument tour, including the WWII monument. Other site may include Ft. Ward, Ft Stevens, the CW Military Medical Museum at Walter Reed and the Battle of Monocacy. Sunday we are in Gettysburg for a special battle-walk. Monday we will return after touring the Eisenhower Farm. The estimated cost will be \$479, including bus, hotels, admissions, special tours, and some meals.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Round Table wishes to acknowledge a special thanks to all those who helped make our first year attending the Irish 2000

Festival a huge success, despite the adverse weather conditions!!

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the businesses that supported and added greatly to our successful efforts, and hope that you will support them in the future.

Artist, Bradley Schmel, of York, PA, donated the Irish Brigade prints.

<http://www.bradleyschmel.biz/>

Certified Framing at Kimberly Square in Loudonville, framed the prints.

Capital Promotions of Albany, helped with the T-shirt design and printing.

Flex and Flannigan's, 240 Steinwehr Ave., Gettysburg, PA, provided the Irish Brigade Flags.

Fair Oaks Sutler of Spotsylvania, VA, provided the Irish Brigade badges and buttons.

THE FINAL VICTORY

I have written in the past about the Mullins Farm near Chancellorsville. A portion of the farm that Mullins bought several years ago was the site of the an engagement between Union and Confederate forces that set the stage for the Battle of Chancellorsville in 1863. In 1995, Mullins purchased the 790 acres for \$2.5 million. He hoped to build a self-contained Town of Chancellorsville with initially 2000 homes and 2.2 million sq. ft. of commercial development. Our friends at the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust fought a last ditch effort to block the proposal, and against all odds, convinced the involved Boards to turn the project down. The impact of the

proposal would have been disastrous for the Chancellorsville Battlefield. That victory appeared to be a pyrrhic one, since Mullins then decided to legitimately sub-divide the land into 10-acre housing plots and smaller business areas along the historical road. Our Round Table was among the last to see the unencumbered historic land before the bulldozers would come. Then, Mullins shamelessly offered the land to CVBT for a mere \$40 million. Finally however, negotiators have agreed on a plan to end the bitter feud between developers and preservationists.

A developer, Tricord Inc. of Spotsylvania County, has agreed to purchase for \$12.5 million 227 acres of the farm that includes 55 acres zoned for commercial development. However, Tricord has agreed to sell 140 of the 227 acres, which includes the 55 commercial acres plus an additional 85 acres of residentially zoned land to the Civil War Preservation Trust for \$3 million. This includes the core battlefield. Tricord will build age-restricted housing on the remaining 87 acres of the 227-acre section. The deal will create a 1000 foot-wide historical buffer.

Mullins recently sold the remaining 566 acres of the farm to Toll Brothers, a national developer that plans to build 162 homes. Although not ideal for all parties concerned, this is a win-win-win-win situation.

Let's summarize:

Mullins sells all the land he purchased for \$2.8 million. He receives \$12.5 million from Tricord for 227 acres, and God knows how much from Toll Brothers for 566 acres.

Both developers get to develop. Tricord will be granted zoning changes to allow them to build a 294 home age-restricted subdivision. Tricord will receive \$3 million from CWPT

for 140 acres. The county saves \$325,000 annually by allowing the age-restriction homes since there will be no cost of educating children.

CVBT, CWPT, and other preservationists, and all who are interested in the Civil War will see these 140 acres remain much as it was in May 1863. The projected increase in daily auto trips will be reduced from 20,000 to 3,000 with the elimination of retail traffic. Your grandchildren will be able to see and understand the battle that took place here, without the view blocked by Pizza Huts, Mobil stations and Walmarts

PADDY O'ROURKE'S BRIDGE

On October 2nd, a new \$74 million 918-foot bridge over the Genesee River was dedicated before a crowd of 1500 enthusiastic people. The weather was rainy with a stiff wind, but shortly before the ceremony began, the rain stopped for a while. Talk about the luck of the Irish!

The bridge is named the Colonel Patrick O'Rourke Bridge, and is a lift bridge that connects Charlotte and Irondequoit. In attendance were re-enactors from the 140th NYVI, Cushing's Battery A, musicians, several veteran units, several Irish organizations, and A Sister City delegation from County Cavan in Ireland, where O'Rourke was born. More than 35 descendants were also in attendance.



The O'Rourke family came to the United States in 1836 when Patrick was one year old. They settled in Rochester's Irish section in 1842. His Roman Catholic mother opposed his accepting a scholarship to the University of Rochester, which had a Baptist affiliation. He apprenticed as a marble cutter, but in 1856 was recommended for the U.S. Military Academy. He graduated first in his class of 1861 and saw action at First Manassas, Port Royal and Fort Pulaski. He became colonel of Rochester's new regiment, the 140th, in the fall of 1862. After Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, he was killed leading his regiment in the critical fighting at Little Round Top at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. He is buried in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Rochester on July 15th.

OUR FALL TRIP

This past weekend a group of 22 members of the CDCWRT bussed to Washington and Alexandria. Friday there was a Congressional tour of the Capitol, courtesy of Mike McNulty. After dinner, Kerry, our *motor coach driver*, took the group on the Memorials by Moonlight Tour. We saw a number of monuments including the Washington Monument, the Washington Monument, the Washington Monument, the Washington Monument and the Washington Monument.

Saturday the group started the "*Rehearsal for Command: Jubal Early and his Role in the Confederate Outcome*," tour. We worked backwards, starting with a tour of Fort Stevens, site of Early's attack on Washington in 1864. Our guide was without doubt, one of the most enthusiastic rangers I have ever met – *One Hundred Day Man Ron*. "*Get down you damned fool!*" This described Lincoln at Fort Stevens as he watched the battle from the top of Fort Stevens. We lunched near Fort DeRussy

and saw the probable site of Camp Doubleday as depicted on our baseball T-shirts. We finished the day at Arlington National Cemetery with Chris Kolakowski as our guide. Highlights included the Custis- Lee Mansion, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Marine Memorial. Saturday night was our banquet at the historic Gadsby's Tavern, where George Washington dined. We were entertained by the tavern owner, dressed in colonial garb. He used the King's language like a rapier, and had all howling with laughter. *UUUU-AAAGHHH*.



Sunday we bussed to Monocacy, site of the battle that saved Washington. Here Lew Wallace delays Jubal Early's Army for one critical day on July 9th, 1864. Then we go on to Gettysburg and lunch at the Dobbin House. The afternoon was spent with Charlie Fennel as we bussed and walked Early's attack at Gettysburg, from its start near Barlow's Knoll on July 1st, to its end on Cemetery Hill on July 2nd. Charlie delved into the psyche of Jubal. "*He grew a beard so he wouldn't cut his own throat!*"

On Monday, part of the group walked the North Carolina approach to the copse of trees with Chris Kolawolski as our guide. This was followed by a round of shopping and a tour of the cyclorama painting, before it comes down for cleaning. A tired but happy group arrived home by 9:00pm.

