

The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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



Volume 30, Number 9 October 2013

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC STOPS LEE

Massive Assault on July 3 Fails

Many Confederates Killed or Captured



In an action similar to that depicted above by artist, Mort Kunstler, the 126th NY Infantry helped stop Confederate forces in the Pickett-Pettigrew charge. Company A, commanded by Capt. Morris Brown, Jr. The company captured a large number of Confederates and a Confederate battle flag. Although it was not known at this time, the Battle of Gettysburg would become the high water mark for the Army of Northern Virginia in the Eastern theatre of the war.

OCTOBER MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2013

WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER
1541 BROADWAY
WATERVLIET, NY

"Fight All Day, March All Night"

Wayne Mahood

Social Hour	**6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**
Business Meeting	**7:00 – 7:15 p.m.**
Presentation	**7:15 – 8:15 p.m.**
Discussion	**8:15 - -8:45 p.m.**

CDCWRT MEETING

The October meeting of the Capital District Civil War Round Table will be at the Watervliet Senior Center on Friday, October 11, 2013. Our very special guest speaker is Professor Wayne Mahood. His presentation is based on his most recent Civil War book, and is entitled **"Fight All Day, March All Night: A Medal of Honor Recipient's Story."**

Mahood earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, his M.A. at the University of Illinois, and his Ph.D. at Syracuse University. He is a Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Education at SUNY Geneseo. Mahood has written six Civil War books, including **Charlie Mosher's Civil War** ***and*** **General Wadsworth: The Life and Times of Brevet Major General James S. Wadsworth.**

Wayne also wrote a regimental history, **Written in Blood: History of the 126th New York Infantry in the Civil War.** ***He will talk about the 126th and one of its officers.***

Morris Brown, Jr. of Penn Yan, NY, was a student at Hamilton College. At the age of 21, he left college and enlisted as a sergeant. By age 22, he was captain of a company in the 126th NY Infantry. The regiment suffered 80% casualties in its service in the Army of the Potomac. Brown's company was reduced to eighteen men. At the Battle of Gettysburg, Brown's company captured 50 Confederate soldiers and a battle flag. One year later, Brown commanded the regiment.

A scrapbook containing a collection of Brown's letters was offered for sale by a Nashville, TN antique dealer. Hamilton College purchased the collection, and Mahood's book is based on this collection. Brown was articulate and perceptive in his letters. In writing about the fierce fighting in the Overland Campaign he said, "We are literally living in our own graves."

This promises to be a most enlightening evening.

NYS ARCHIVES PARTNERSHIP TRUST

Join the New York State Archives Partnership Trust on Thursday, November 7th for an engaging evening of conversation between Pulitzer Prize-winning author Dr. James McPherson and nationally prominent Lincoln Scholar, Harold Holzer, as they talk about Dr. McPherson's career of distinction as one of this nation's foremost chroniclers of the past. It promises to be a memorable evening!

For more information, go to:
http://www.archives.nysed.gov/apt/events/index.shtml

Tickets can be purchased at the Egg Box Office at 518-473-1845.

The CDCWRT is a supporting sponsor of this event.

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. Details of Sesquicentennial Civil War events can be found on the web-site: www.nycivilwar150.org.

On October 12, 2013 Alvin Parker will provide a living history program about Ely Parker, a Seneca Indian who was U.S. Grant's secretary. The program will be at Grant's Cottage in Wilton at 1:00 p.m.

On November 1-3, 2013, the CDCWRT will sponsor the 1863 Sesquicentennial Conference at the NYS Museum.

On Thursday, November 7, 2013, from 5:30 -8:30 p.m. the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway Gala will take place. The honoree for 2013 is the Watervliet Arsenal. Those wishing to attend should go to the website www.hudsonmohawkgateway.org for details. The event will be held at the Franklin Terrace Ballroom in Troy.

On December 13, 2013, the CDCWRT will again meet at Siena College to see a movie, inspired by Stephen Crane, and produced locally in Albany. It is entitled: *Thirst: A Civil War Story.* It is about two Union soldiers who deserted. They are driven by thirst, but the well they discover is guarded by Confederate soldiers.

Because the December meeting will be held at Siena College, the usual Holiday Party will be postponed until the January meeting as will the election of officers.

On January 10, 2014, the CDCWRT will hold its annual Potpourri Meeting with presentations by J.J. Jennings and Bob Shuey. A Post-Holiday party will also be held prior to the meeting, along with the election of officers and board.

BOARD MEETING

A Board Meeting was held on September 16, 2013. The Treasurer reported $2805 in the regular account and 10,837 in the Preservation Account. Matt Farina reported sales of $447 at Schuyler Flatts, $400 in Gettysburg mail orders, and about $140 in sales at the Saratoga Civil War Weekend. Four new members also joined. Matt Farina has also arranged the purchase of all our Antietam cachets (almost 2,000) by the Western Maryland Interpretive Association which operates the museum store at the NPS at Antietam and Monacacy Battlefields.

The 2013 Sesquicentennial Conference at the NYS Museum is set. A flyer is included in the September newsletter. More details will be in the October newsletter. The first week of November is packed with Civil War activities including the conference on 1,2,3, and the NYS Archives Partnership Trust and the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway Gala on the same night on November 7th.

CONFERENCE DETAILS

There are a number of details that have been added after the conference flyer appeared in last month's newsletter.

1. You may now pay by credit card (see this newsletter or call Fran McCashion).
2. All attendees get one raffle ticket, but additional tackets can be purchased for $5 each. Raffle prizes include a pair of framed, period maps of Gettysburg, a first edition of Grant's Memoirs, a framed Troiani print, a pair of Civil War Boyd's Bears with original tags, and $100 cash. First and second prizes are selected from these. Third and fourth prizes will select a Civil War book or framed art.

3. Honor your Civil War relative at our wall honor roll for $10 each. Call Fran McCashion (459-4209) with name, unit, and relationship.
4. If you or your business would like to be a sponsor of the conference, please call Matt George (355-2131) for details. Sponsorships start at $50.
5. If you or your organization would like to have an exhibit or information table at the conference, contact Matt George for details. A limited number of tables are available.
6. Parking Friday night and all day Saturday and Sunday is free in lots on both sides of the Museum with entrances from Madison Ave. Parking is also available under-ground in the visitors' lot.
7. The CDCWRT will have items for sales at the conference, including used books and our famous postal cachets. There are very limited number of envelopes featuring First Day of Issue of the first Bull Run stamp, the Battle of New Orleans stamp, the Antietam stamp, the Vicksburg stamp and the new Gettysburg stamp. Small numbers of cancels for the 150th anniversary of Gettysburg are available, along with unique or autographed cachets.
8. Two historical sculptures by Round Table member, Ron Tunison, will be for sale. "Robert E. Lee" (144/350 in 1991) is offered at $295. "Advance the Standard" (6/350 in 1992) is offered at $295.

THE OTHER & FORGOTTEN GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

(I have included this item this month because there will NOT be a November newsletter—editor)

Edward Evertt was quite an accomplished fellow. He had been president of Harvard University, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senator, governor of Massachusetts, U.S. Secretary of State, and minister to Great Britain. He was also, by all accounts, a great speech-maker.

So when, in 1863, the national cemetery in Gettysburg was being dedicated, Edward Everett was a natural choice to be the day's billboarded speaker. It wasn't clear that President Lincoln would even be in attendance. When Lincoln did agree to come to Gettysburg, his role was defined as making "dedicatory remarks." The day's "oration" --- that's how it was described --- was reserved for Everett.

He nailed it. He had prepared meticulously. He had researched and recreated in lovely yet searing language the facts and meanings of the Battle of Gettysburg. He spoke for two hours, and used all of his considerable skills to mesmerize the audience He would have been justly confident in believing that the first words of his address would go down in history:

"Standing beneath this serene sky, overlooking these broad fields now reposing from the labors of the waning year, the mighty Alleghenies dimly towering before us, the graves of our brethren beneath our feet, it is with hesitation that I raise my poor voice to break the eloquent silence of God and nature."

Great stuff. And, a couple of rousing hours later, here was his windup:

"But they, I am sure, will join us in saying as we bid farewell to the dust of these martyr-heroes, that where-so-ever throughout the civilized world the accounts of this great warfare are read, and down to the latest period of recorded time, in the glorious annual of our common country, there will be no brighter page than that which relates the Battles of Gettysburg."

As Everett returned to his seat, he might well have assumed that he had just delivered a speech for the ages. By my

account of his text, he had spoken 13,508 words.

Then, after some music, Lincoln stood up. A two-to-three minute speech. Fewer than 280 words.

It's not difficult to understand why some people (falsely) assumed that Lincoln might have jotted the speech on the back of an envelope on the train from Washington to Gettysburg. He was finished almost before he began.

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

And not much more than a blink of the eye later,

"…. that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom --- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

All of Everett's preparation, all of his dramatic elocution, all of his talent and intellect and exhaustive research …destined to be forgotten.

He received a consolation prize: Lincoln gave him one of the five copies of what, forevermore, would be known as the Gettysburg Address. To historians ---at least those who elect to notice Everett --- his own speech is routinely referred to as the Gettysburg Oration.

Whatever his private thought might have been as he listened to Lincoln's brief remarks, Everett was gracious in the aftermath. The next day, he wrote to Lincoln, expressing admiration for the "eloquent simplicity & appropriateness" of the president's speech: "I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes."

Lincoln was magnanimous. He wrote back to Everett: "I am pleased to know that, in your judgment, the little I did say was not entirely a failure." One line in Lincoln's speech did turn out to be half-right: "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here …" Not true for Lincoln's words; true enough for Everett's.

We would all do well to keep in mind: Sometimes, regardless of how diligently your prepare, of how splendidly you do your job, of how thoroughly you consider every aspect of the task, you get blind-sided by fate.

It would be convenient to be able to neatly conclude this tale by reporting that, the fame of the Gettysburg Address notwithstanding, two years later Lincoln went to Ford's Theater and saw his days on Earth come to an untimely end, while Everett, though his speech was consigned to obscurity, went on to live a full and happy life.

But in fact, in January 1865 Everett came down with a bad cold while making another speech, this one in Boston, and died soon after. Lincoln outlived him by three months.

Sometimes a guy just can't catch a break.

(from the Washington Post by columnist and CNN commentator, Bob Greene)

CIVIL WAR TOURS OF THE NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

Stuart Lehman has asked us to announce Civil War tours of the Capitol and the new flag exhibit entitled, ***1863: Loyal till Death.***

The tours will be on the first Thursday of the month until May 2014, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the State Street lobby of the Capitol.

Please register by calling (518) 473-7582 or on line at www.ogs.ny.gov.