

The Dispatch

Newsletter of the

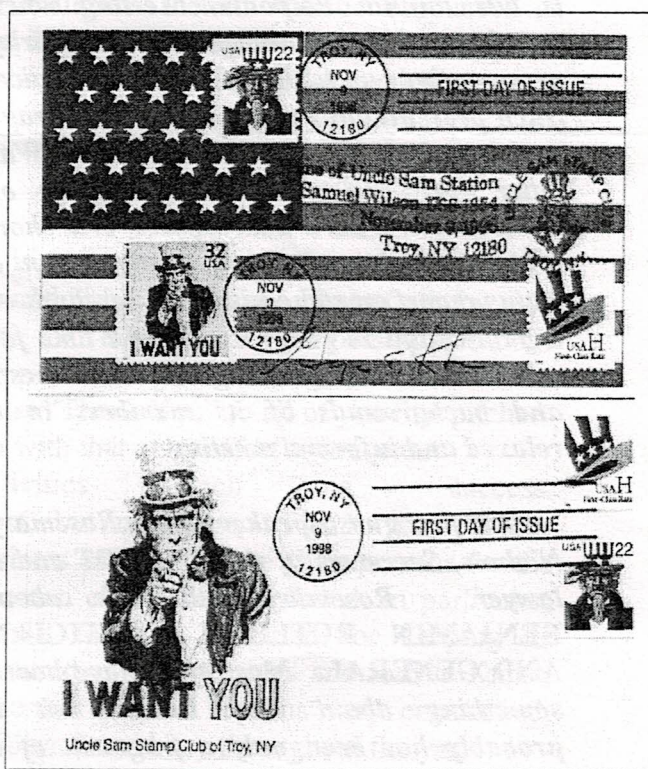
Capital District Civil War Round Table

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

CDCWRT's web site: timesunion.com/communities/cdcwrt

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Benjamin Franklin Butler was a notorious politician and a controversial soldier. He commanded the force that occupied New Orleans where he earned the nicknames of "Beast" and "Spoons." "Uncle Sam" Wilson was a native of Troy, New York. His character became the personified symbol of the United States. In 1998 the 22-cent Uncle Sam stamp was first issued in Troy. The story of both men will be the topics of our January meeting.

January Meeting

Friday 1/9/04

Guilderland Public Library
Route 20 Western Ave.
Guilderland, NY

SOCIAL HOUR	6:00PM
BUSINESS MEETING	7:00PM
PROGRAM	7:30PM

CDCWRT MEETING

The January meeting of the CDCWRT will be held in the Guilderland Public Library on Friday 9, 2004 at 7:00 pm. This is our annual Potpourri Meeting when members of our Round Table make brief presentations on topics of their own choice. Such presentations may serve to encourage new speakers to talk about a Civil War letter or collection, an artifact or photograph, a Civil War relative, or a short topic. Experienced speakers may present a status report on some historical research or a publication in progress. It is a time for our Round Table to recognize the interests and backgrounds of its members in a relaxed and informal meeting.

Our first guest speaker will be Rosemary Nichols, Secretary of the CDCWRT and a lawyer. Rosemary will talk about BENJAMIN BUTLER: POLITICIAN AND GENERAL. Most of us have heard something about Ben Butler, but it probably has been only a fragment of a story. Rosemary will give a more detailed history of the career and life of a man who could have substantially shortened the War in the East in 1864.

Our second speaker will be member Kathy Sheehan, who works at the Rensselaer Historical Society. She will speak about the life of Samuel Wilson, a Troy resident who became known as "Uncle Sam" during the Civil War. "Uncle Sam" subsequently became a symbol of the United States, militarily and politically.

Friday is also T-SHIRT NIGHT, so please wear those new Civil War T-shirts you received as gifts this holiday season. It is also our MAGAZINE EXCHANGE NIGHT. Members are asked to donate old Civil War magazines, which the CDCWRT sells for \$0.50 apiece. There will also be a selection of used soft-cover and hardcover books for sale, in addition to CDCWRT baseball T-shirts and other gift items. Any member who would like to display artifacts should contact Sue Knost (452-2473) or Lew Warner (456-2400x20) to make arrangements for a table.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED!!

Several regular volunteers are being sought to help Stan Bergman, who handles refreshments. While many have helped out in recent meetings, we are seeking two consistent volunteers to assist Stan at each meeting. If enough apply, we could rotate meetings. Greeters are also needed to help welcome visitors and guests. See Joe Stracuzzi if interested. Even if you know you can only help out one time, every little bit helps and is very appreciated!

DECEMBER MEETING

Our scheduled speaker for the December meeting had to cancel at the last minute due to an unexpected death in his family. Mark Johnson will be rescheduled for some other meeting this year. Matt Farina filled in as speaker and talked about *The Wounding and Subsequent Death of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain*. Judging from the many

questions afterwards, this topic has remained one of great interest.

A brief business meeting was then held, and the proposed slate for officers and board for 2004 was approved unanimously.

<i>President</i>	<i>Joe Stracuzzi</i>
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Matt George</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Lew Warner</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Rosemary Nichols</i>
<i>At-Large</i>	<i>Mike Spaulding</i>
<i>At-Large</i>	<i>Fran McCashion</i>
<i>At-Large</i>	<i>Chris Kolakowski</i>

A holiday party followed the meeting, and as usual, there were many trays of items to taste. Sales of books, prints, and other items helped holiday shoppers also.

UP-COMING EVENTS

The February Meeting of the Round Table is scheduled for Friday, February 13th, 2004 at the Guilderland Library.

The Annual Cover Show will be held in Albany on Saturday and Sunday, February 14th & 15th. This stamp show features 60-80 dealers of stamps, cachets, postcards and other ephemera from the Northeast. The CDCWRT is a supporter of the show, and generally has an information table set up along with cachets and other Civil War items. We need volunteers to help man the tables. No experience is necessary other than an interest in the Civil War, and an interest in talking to others about that interest. Volunteers should contact Joe Stracuzzi or Sue Knost.

The March Meeting of the CDCWRT is scheduled for Friday, March 13th, 2004.

2004 SPRING TRIP TO WILDERNESS & SPOTSYLVANIA
Our Spring Muster will be a 3-day weekend starting on Friday, April 23, 2004. The trip will cover the Wilderness and Spotsylvania battles. We will fly Friday morning to Baltimore and bus to Virginia. Those who do not wish to fly, would leave by bus from Albany on Thursday, the 22nd. The bus would stop for several hours in Gettysburg and would stop overnight outside of Baltimore. The bus travelers would meet the air travelers Friday morning in Baltimore. Deposits of \$150 per person will be due in January and can be paid at the meeting, so plan your savings accordingly. Deposits are refundable if the trip is cancelled. Part or all of the deposit may be **non-refundable for late individual cancellation.** Details will be announced at the January meeting, and there will be more details in our next month's newsletter.

JOE'S JANUARY JOTTINGS Happy New Year!!

It is 2004 and we have an extra day for Round Table activities. First of all, I would like to THANK the membership for their support through out the year. Second, an extra "Thank You" to all of you that pitched in with that extra effort to make our activities such a success. Last, but not least, "Thank you" to our officers and committee chair persons for the yeoman effort they exhibited. In particular, thanks to Stan Bergman for keeping us nurtured at our meetings and to Sue Knost, who once again kept us very entertained, informed and busy throughout the year. If you have never tried to help out on any of our activities, please volunteer; it doesn't hurt and you are sure to have a good time and meet lots of people.
JOE STRACUZZI