



The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

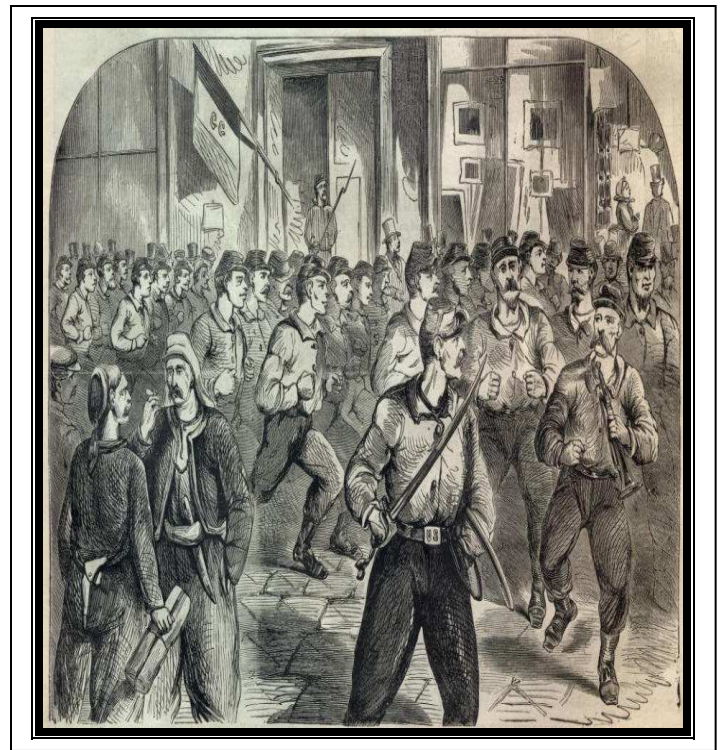
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HERE COMES THE GARIBALDI GUARDS



Pictured above are Colonel Frederick G. D'Utassy and his brother. They received the colors for the Garibaldi Zouaves on May 23, 1861. The first flag was an American standard presented by Mrs. A. H. Stephens. Miss Grinnell presented the second flag which was a Hungarian standard. On one side was

Embroidered "Vivecere aut morire." On the other side was embroidered "Conquer or Die." After receiving their colors, Col. D'Utassy made a brief speech. The Garibaldi Zouaves then marched at the double-quick down Broadway in New York City.
From June 1861 Harper's Weekly

**APRIL MEETING
FRIDAY, APRIL 9TH**

**THE GARIBALDI GUARD
GOTT UND UNION!!
Willi Runk**

**Guilderland Public Library
Western Ave. (Route 20) Guilderland**

Social Hour	6:00 pm-7:00 pm
Business Meeting	7:00 pm-7:30 pm
Presentation	7:30 pm-8:30 pm
Q&A	8:30 pm-9:30 pm

CDCWRT MEETING

The next meeting of the CDCWRT will be on Friday, April 9, 2010 at the Guilderland Public Library. Our special guest speaker is W. David Runk, presenter and re-enactor. His topic for tonight is entitled: "The Garibaldi Guard."

The men of the 39th New York Voluntary Infantry were certainly united in their defense of the Union, if not in their ability to communicate. Established early in the war (1861), the 39th consisted of immigrants from across Europe and the western hemisphere and were under the command of Colonel D'Utassy – a man who needed all the 14 languages he spoke to command this "Foreign Legion" for Lincoln.

Involved in many of the major battles of the Civil War, from 1st Bull Run to Appomattox, these soldiers endured some of the harshest of times and toughest of engagements – including being surrendered to the Confederacy's famous General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson at Harper's Ferry along with Troy's 125th.

Willi Runk has a passion for history in general and American history in particular. As the 8th grade Social Studies teacher at Talcott Mountain Academy, he has been able to apply his "Living History"

approach to teaching the past, and believes it has enabled him to impart a better understanding of these times to his students. He has been reenacting for over 30 years in the Revolutionary War period and for over 12 years in the American Civil War period. Join him now as he brings news as Hauptmann Schmitt, Captain Commanding, B Company, 39th NYVI, from the "Garibaldi Guards" to you about "...these trying times."

BOARD MEETING

A Board Meeting of the CDCWRT was held on March 15th. The treasurer reported \$105.75 was taken in at the meeting with book and shirt sales. The trip to NYC DID occur after the 13 people who did sign up were able to rent a van at the last minute. A member of the RT, Ken Wegman, made an additional \$250 donation in memory of Joe Stracuzzi and this was added to the 5:1 match with CWPT. Melanie Stracuzzi will be notified of the donation. Plans for upcoming events were also discussed (see up-coming events). The Board also decided not to participate in the Ashokan Civil War Event on May 22-23 and the Cooperstown Hall of Fame Induction Weekend.

FINAL NEWSLETTER!

If you have not yet paid your dues, this newsletter will be the last that we will be sending you. As prior newsletters have noted, membership dues of \$25 were due in January. Membership dues are a vital part of our operating budget and help allow us to provide the high level of programs that we do. This includes the monthly newsletter you are now enjoying. So if you have not already sent in your dues, please do so as soon as possible. Your dues can be sent to the address on the cover of this newsletter, or you can give your payment to Fran McCashion at our next monthly meeting. This does not apply to Round Tables, Historical Societies, lifetime members, etc. who receive our newsletter complimentary.

Also we occasionally have a need to contact members before the next newsletter is mailed. When we do, we send out a special mailing. Not only is this process costly, it is very time consuming. We find that e-mailing special notices is easier, faster, and cheaper. Consequently, we are starting a campaign to get e-mail addresses for ALL members, Round Tables,

Historical Societies, etc. If you have not already supplied us with your e-mail address, please take a moment and send your e-mail address to our Membership Chair at albanycivilwar@yahoo.com. This will help ensure that you receive special announcements.

Your e-mail address can also be used to receive future newsletters instead of receiving a hard copy through regular mail. If you want to take advantage of this and receive the newsletter about one week earlier than usual, let us know when you send us your e-mail address. Please note that if you do not specifically state that you want the newsletter e-mailed to you, your e-mail address will only be used for special announcements and you will continue to receive a hardcopy.

If you are new to the Capital District region and want to join our group, please send a check for \$25 to the address on the front page of this newsletter. Include your name, address, e-mail address, and whether you want to receive the newsletter by e-mail.

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.

Sunday, May 2, 2010 is the Ten Broeck Mansion Living History Day. The CDCWRT has participated in this event the past several years. Various groups will be present to demonstrate and talk about 19th Century activities. There will be tours of the Mansion also. This event and the Mansion are under-appreciated gems, and deserve community support and attendance.

Friday, May 14, 2010 is the regular meeting of the CDCWRT. Kate Larson will present a program entitled, "Mary Surratt – An Accomplice to John Wilkes Booth."

Saturday & Sunday, June 5-6, 2010 marks the

return of Civil War Weekend at the King Solomon Temple in Troy. Several years ago this event was moved to the park in Troy. The following year, no group wanted to assume the role as organizer, and the Troy Civil War Weekend ended. Now it is back at its original site. The CDCWRT will be present manning a table.

Friday, June 11, 2010 is the regular meeting of the CDCWRT. Patrick Schroeder, historian at Appomattox Court House, will return to present a living history program entitled, "George Peers, County Clerk of Appomattox."

July 2010 – no meeting scheduled

Saturday & Sunday, August 21-22, 2010 is the Civil War Weekend at Schuyler Flatts. The CDCWRT picnic may be held at the site on this weekend.

Friday, September 10, 2010 is the regular meeting of the CDCWRT. The speaker will be our own resident historian, Bob Mulligan. Bob will present his first person portrayal of Corporal Tanner, who was the recorder of events in the Petersen House the day Lincoln died.

Friday, October 8, 2010 is the regular meeting of the CDCWRT. Chris Kelly will present a program entitled, "The Civil War Art of Thomas Nast and Winslow Homer."

MARCH'S MEETING

A sizable crowd of CDCWRT members listened as Chris Morton, using a power point presentation, described the success of "A Banner Decade: Ten Years of the New York State Battle Flag Preservation Project." Approximately 2,000 flags are in the state's collection, ranging from the War of 1812 to the present, under the auspices of the NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs. Of these over 800 are Civil War flags.

In 1863 Adjutant General John T. Sprague called for the flags of regiments that had already completed their service and for captured Confederate flags to be turned over to the state for placement in state archives. By April 1863 seven flags were in state possession. Of these the Flag Preservation Project has conserved three including the 71st New York, the Jackson Light

Infantry, part of Sickles' Brigade, and the 61st New York Volunteers, stained with the blood of the color sergeant, wounded at Malvern Hill.

As flags were turned over to the state, there were official presentation ceremonies in 1863, 1864 and again in 1865 when a grand presentation ceremony attended by Generals Grant, Sickles and Butterfield was held, the flags were paraded before the governor. By 1867 the state had 811 flags in its possession, some of them silk and some wool. A few such as the 106th New York Regiment and the 2nd Regiment New York Cavalry were elaborately embroidered, created by Tiffany & Co.

At first stored at 173 State Street, in 1867 the flag collection was relocated to 219 State Street once construction of the new Capital building began. On the occasion of U.S. Grant's 1881 visit to Albany, he was invited to a reception in the Assembly Chamber of the unfinished Capital building where someone had the bright idea to display the Civil War flags. On their return to storage the route could be traced by bits and fragments of the already deteriorating flags. Soon after this an investigative reporter sent by the *NY Times* surveyed 219 State Street. Headlined "Neglected War Relics," the resulting news report described a shabby building, unfit storage conditions and neglected flags. Finally in 1881 the collection found a home in the new Capital building, stored furled in flag cases near the Senate Gallery, later moved to two other sites in the building over the decades.

In the 1890s Governor Theodore Roosevelt in accepting the flag of the 9th New York Volunteers, Hawkin's Zouaves for the state's collection, assured everyone at the presentation ceremony that this regimental flag, embroidered with "Toujours prêt" or "Always Ready," would always be preserved as an object lesson in courage and patriotism. Currently this fragmented flag is under conservation.

Chris Morton, after giving the historical background of the state's flag collection, described the Flag Project itself, beginning in the early 1990s. After surveying approximately 129 flags a report was produced on their condition and what needed to be done. This resulted in a "Heritage At Risk" exhibit at the Capital. In 2000 money was allotted to begin the restoration project, beginning with the flags in most need of conservation.

Removal from the staff and documentation of how they were attached was the first step. The brittle flags were then placed in a humidity chamber so that they could be unfurled inch by inch. An archival support had to be placed under the unfurled flag so that the conservators could begin work. In the 1960s some conservation work had been done by stitching a few of the flags into the netting. In the process several were cut into pieces to be placed in the netting and the stitching done in the fragile textiles made them more difficult to conserve today. Once conserved, the flags must be stored flat, gravity being the enemy of antique textiles.

He then showed some of the flags that have been displayed in the Capital Exhibition Program beginning in 2004, such as the 11th Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry, Ellsworth's Fire Zouaves with pictures of fire regalia still visible. In the current exhibit the standard from Sickles' Excelsior Brigade is on view.

Many large flags are still to be conserved, but unfortunately the state's budget has so severely cut back on projects that no money has been set aside to continue the program beyond July when the conservators will complete the two flags currently under way. They will then be forced to stop working.

What will happen after July? It will be difficult to resume the program once it is terminated. In the past there have been partnerships with groups or individuals, but if more private sources or grants cannot be found, the program is at an end. The cost of preserving one of the 350 Civil War flags left is between \$5,000 and \$10,000 depending on the size. Individuals can help by sending small donations to "The Natural Heritage Trust – DMNA Flag Project," NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12238.

In 2011 Chris Morton is hoping to find the funds and grant money to put on an 1861 exhibit to commemorate the Civil War's Sesquicentennial. Watch the CDCWRT's *Dispatch* for further developments.

This excellent summary of the meeting was provided by our secretary, Mary Ellen Johnson.

GRANT AND TWAIN

The Story of an American Friendship

This is part three of a summary of Mark Perry's book on U.S. Grant and Mark Twain.

How did Twain get Grant to turn over his memoirs to Twain's company?

In November, Twain had known for many months that Grant planned to write his memoirs, and that Century wanted to publish them. Twain also wanted the memoirs. Gilder invited Twain to dinner and he was so confident that the memoirs were to go to Century that he confirmed this for Twain. Twain had been angry over the paltry \$500 per article than had been offered to Grant, so he immediately went to Grant in the hope of stopping any agreement with Century for the memoirs.

Grant was ready to sign the contract when Twain suggested Grant's son read it to Twain first. Twain read the contract and shook his head in disgust. Twain said Century knew magazine publishing, but had no experience of subscription publishing. Twain asked for the memoirs, but Grant was suspicious. Twain pressed, and told Grant to change the 10% to 20%, or better yet, put 75% of net returns in its place. Twain said any reputable publisher would gladly pay a royalty of 20%. Grant paused, but felt honor-bound to sign the agreement.

Twain then pointed out that there was an additional offensive detail in the contract which he had never heard of, namely that out of Grant's 10% must come a trivial tax "for the book's share of clerk hire, house rent, sweeping out of the offices, or some such nonsense as that." Twain said Grant should have $\frac{3}{4}$ of the profits and let the publisher pay running expenses out of the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$. But Grant still felt honor bound because he had been negotiating for several months. Grant then asked Twain to name a publisher who would make such an offer. Twain named American Publishing, and said he could furnish proof in 6 hours. Fred Grant agreed this decision should be a business decision, not a sentimental one. Grant said he felt a loyalty to Century because they had come to him first. Twain played his trump card. "I am to be the published because I came to you first." Grant then remembered that 3 years earlier, Twain suggested Grant write his memoirs and sell the book by

subscription. The general agreed to postpone the signing 24 hours.

The next morning Grant was willing to consider Twain's proposition. Sherman's profits on his book were \$25,000. Smith had turned down Grant's proposal to write his memoirs for \$25,000. So Grant was still skeptical of Twain's higher profits for a subscription. It was then that Twain proposed Grant sell him the memoirs and Twain would publish them himself. He proposed paying Grant \$50,000 on the spot. Grant laughed and refused, but he agreed to have an old friend, George Childs, review both offers. Childs recommended Twain's offer, and Grant chose the 20% gross royalty. Twain offered a \$10,000 advance for living expenses, but Grant refused and just took \$1000 for transfer of the book. Century did not express any anger to Grant over his change of heart, and the three men acted honorably.

How did Grant manage to complete his memoirs?

Grant became depressed around December but rallied in January. William Sherman had tried unsuccessfully to get a pension bill through Congress that would have provided the Grants with a \$27,000 retroactive pension. He realized he had little choice but to complete his memoirs. The press meantime suspected Grant was ill despite reassurances from his doctors. Meantime Twain was on tour until the end of February 1885. On his return he visited Grant and was shocked by his appearance. It was then that Twain was told about Grant's diagnosis and prognosis.

Fred had reported the first volume of memoirs was done, but Twain never lost faith that his friend would win his last battle. Meantime Twain's publishing company, Webster & Co., was putting together the best subscription department. Twain immediately borrowed \$200,000 to underwrite publishing costs. He put on the company stationary "Personal Memoirs of General Grant." It was also obvious to Twain that success of the memoirs was essential to provide for the family after Grant's death.

On March 1, 1885 the New York Times' headline was GRANT IS DYING.. Reporters started a death-watch outside Grant's home. Old friends, commanders, and simple soldiers began to stop by to pay their respects. In Congress the bill to reinstate Grant's rank (which he had resigned years earlier) was finally passed. Grover

Cleveland's inauguration was delayed 20 minutes so the Senate could vote on the bill, the clock having been intentionally delayed for 20 minutes. The \$13,500 per year took care of many of Grant's debts.

In late March Twain noted the article on Vicksburg which Grant wrote for Century was four times longer than his agreement called for. Twain vowed to bring the matter of paltry payment to the attention of Smith. Smith had already agreed to increase Grant's payments from \$2000 to \$4000 per article and Century had always treated Grant fairly and was not exploiting him. Yet Twain was upset. The real reason may have been the fact that Grant was using the Century articles as the basis for the memoirs. This was a simple matter of who owned them. If Century owned them, then Grant would have to rewrite the pieces in a different way for the memoirs. Given Grant's failing health, he might never finish the book.

Grant had given Century full rights to publish his articles, but Smith agreed that all rights to Grant's work would revert back to Grant – but only after Century had published them. Twain later wrote: "It was easily demonstrable they were buying ten-dollar gold pieces from General Grant at twenty-five cents a piece, and I think it was as easily demonstrable that they did not know there was anything unfair about it." But Twain was being disingenuous. In fact, he was relieved Grant did not have to rewrite those sections and the 4 campaigns in Battles and Leaders are the same in his memoirs. With this issue resolved, Twain rushed volume I to the printers.

In April, Adam Badeau, who had been helping Grant, implied the work was predominately his composition. He wanted twice the money that Grant had offered him. It was blackmail, but Grant marshaled his strength and responded in such force that Badeau retreated from his claim. The cancer had spread to Grant's jaw, but by June 8 he informed Twain that volume two was complete in rough draft. In late June the Grants moved to the Balmoral Hotel on Mt. McGregor, 12 miles from Saratoga. There Grant finished editing of volume 2 and wrote letters to his family and wife to be read after death. He called Twain to McGregor on June 27th. Twain hoped the volume was completed but Grant told him he could improve it further if he had 2 more weeks. Twain was crushed, but in the long-run Grant's revision strengthened the volume.

On the afternoon of July 19th, Grant put down his pencil, smiled a bit, and handed his papers to his transcriber. The book was finished he said. Grant died on the morning of July 23, 1885. Twain was not part of the huge funeral. He watched it for 5 hours from the window of his publishing firm. The first volume of Grant's memoirs was published on December 10, 1885. On February 27, 1886, Twain presented Julia Grant with a check for \$200,000. In all, she received nearly \$450,000 over the next decade.

What did Grant mean to Twain?

It is unlikely that Twain would have completed Huckleberry Finn if it were not for Grant's friendship. No matter how close they had become, Twain could never bring himself to call him "Sam." The notice at the front of Huckleberry Finn is signed G.G., Chief of Ordinance. Twain never hinted who G.G. might be, but he always referred to his good friend as General Grant out of respect.

After Twain had hit his reef at Chapter 16 he put the book aside in 1879 he became good friends with Grant. Several years later Twain revisited the Mississippi and followed the battles that Grant had fought. Twain began to write Huckleberry Finn again after he realized the only way to tell the southern story and the only way to free Jim and Huck was to send them south. Grant had arrived at that same conclusion exactly 19 years earlier. The only way to free the slaves, to end the war, to go home, he had said then, was to go south.

Throughout his life Twain reflected on the meaning of Huckleberry Finn and in his last years he realized it was Jim, not Huck, who was at the center of his story. Twain wrestled with his own feelings about African Americans. At the heart of slavery was the question of race. It was the question of race that attracted Twain to Grant. In Grant's struggles, Twain saw his own. Grant condemned slavery and fought against it, and he abhorred racism, but he could not overcome it. Like Twain, he believed the nation's soul was infected by racism, but not his. Men like Twain and Grant could not complete the victory sealed at Appomattox. They could not stay the hand of American injustice that freed the slaves to be citizens, but then denied them their rights.

From the Front Lines To the Front Lawn

The Siena College History Club Presents: A Day of Living History II

Saturday, April 17, 2010
Lawn in front of Hines Hall
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Reenactors and Living Historians
from American History

The Modern Military

Local Historic Sites and Museums

18th Century Children's Games

Siena College Student Presentations

For more information please e-mail the Siena College
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Created in 1984, the Capital District Civil War Round Table is an incorporated non-profit educational organization. Meetings are held monthly in various locations in the Capital District. This newsletter is published eleven times per year. Annual dues are \$25. The purpose of the organization is to promote, educate, and further stimulate interest in, and discussion of, all aspects of the Civil War period.

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