



The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 14871 Albany, NY 12212
www.AlbanyCivilWar.org



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WHERE DID LEE SURRENDER?



The two buildings above are often confused. One is the court house in Appomattox Court House and the other is the McLean house in the same village. The answer to the headline depends on the specificity of the questioner. The last battles of the Civil War in the Eastern Campaign centered around Appomattox Court House and Appomattox Station. In Virginia, the county seats were frequently called court houses. Appomattox Court House was the county seat. The photo on the right is the Court House in Appomattox Court House, the village in which Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia. The surrender papers were signed by Lee and Grant in the Wilber McLean home in the village, pictured above to the left. So everyone who answered is correct!

**JUNE MEETING
FRIDAY, JUNE 11th**

**“George Peers, County Clerk of
Appomattox”
Patrick Schroeder**

**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, June 11th. Our special returning guest speaker will be Patrick Schroeder, author and historian at Appomattox Court House. His topic is entitled, “George Peers, County Clerk of Appomattox.”

Schroeder was born January 1, 1968, at Fort Belvoir, VA, and was raised in Utica, New York, until he was 13. Patrick attended Stuarts Draft High School in Augusta County, VA. In the spring of 1990, he graduated *Cum Laude* with a B.S. in Historical Park Administration from Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, WV. He has a M.A. in Civil War History from Virginia Tech.

From the summer of 1986-1993, Patrick worked as a seasonal living history interpreter at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. In 1993, he wrote *Thirty Myths About Lee’s Surrender*, which is currently in its twelfth printing. From 1994–1999, he was employed at Red Hill, the Patrick Henry National Memorial. Patrick has written, edited and/or contributed to more than twenty Civil War titles including: *More Myths About Lee’s Surrender*, *The Confederate Cemetery at*

Appomattox, Recollections and Reminiscences of Old Appomattox, Tar Heels, Civil War Soldier Life: In Camp and Battle, A Duryee Zouave, We Came To Fight: A History of the 5th NY Veteran Vol. Inf., Duryee’s Zouaves, Campaigns of the 146th Regiment New York State Volunteers, Pennsylvania Bucktails, The Bloody 85th, and The Life of General Ely S. Parker: Least Grand Sachem of the Iroquois and Grant’s Military Secretary.

Patrick resides in Lynchburg, VA. Patrick has worked as an independent researcher, historian, and author. He has been the Historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park since 2002. In an effort to protect sites relevant to the Appomattox Campaign, Patrick has set up the “Appomattox Fund” with the Civil War Preservation Trust, to save land important to the climatic events of April 1865.

BOARD MEETING

A Board Meeting of the CDCWRT was held on May 17th. The treasurer reported \$130 in sales from the Ten Broeck event. Membership now consists of 110 paid members with 20 regular comps such as other round tables. There are 4 DVDs of previous meetings available for members. The postal cancellation at Gettysburg is all set. Our picnic will be Friday evening, August 20th, as part of the Civil War Weekend at Schuyler Flatts. More details will be announced in a special mailing.

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.

July 2010 – no meeting scheduled

Our Picnic will be held Friday evening, August 20th at Schuyler Flatts. The re-enactors will be our guests. On Saturday & Sunday, August 21-22,

2010 is the Civil War Weekend at Schuyler Flatts.

Friday, September 10, 2010 is the regular meeting of the CDCWRT. This will be held at the Rennselaer County Historical Society in Troy. The speaker will be our own resident historian, Bob Mulligan. Bob will present his first person portrayal of Rice Bull, who was wounded at Chancellorsville. This will tie in with an exhibit of the Doctor Bontecou Collection which was donated to the historical society.

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."

Friday, November 12, 2010 is the scheduled date for the regular meeting of the CDCWRT.

Friday, December 10, 2010 is the regular meeting of the CDCWRT. This will also be our holiday meeting. The scheduled speaker is Patrick Falci who will do a living history presentation as Gen. Ambrose Powell Hill.

MAY'S MEETING

Kay Larson, who was to speak about Mary Surratt, was forced to cancel at the last minute because of a critical illness in her family. CDCWRT members stepped into the breach and offered a varied and interesting program at short notice.

First up was Steve Muller who added a further comment to his write up of fortifications of Washington, DC in *The Dispatch*. He noted the population of northern Virginia was quite low, displacing few people when the fortifications were built. At the time succession was put to the vote in the Alexandria area, the majority of people were in favor of it.

Howie Young, a re-enactor with the 125th Regiment then showed a DVD of the 125th New York at Remembrance Day in Gettysburg. The re-enactor unit has hired a professional cinematographer to record their special activities and has produced two DVDs. Annually on Remembrance Day Weekend the 125th honors New York soldiers buried in the National

Cemetery by going out 7 am Saturday morning to formally place flags they supply on the graves of New Yorkers and then remove them early Sunday morning. Another solemn moment is the reading of the names of men of the 125th, 61st and 47th New York Regiments who died at Gettysburg.

The second DVD refused to work and we were unable to see it, so instead Howie described the solemn burial in the Schuylerville Veterans Cemetery of the young unknown Civil War soldier, whose bones had been discovered at Antietam. He described moving the remains from Antietam as far as Camp Smith in Peekskill, then to Saratoga to lay in state at the NYS Military Museum. A smaller chest made of wood from trees at Antietam holding the Unknown's bones was then transferred to an 1861 style coffin. At the time the hearse carrying the coffin arrived at the entrance to the cemetery, it was met by an 1860 horse drawn hearse borrowed from DeMarco-Stone Funeral Home. After burial with military honors, the flag on the coffin presented to the NYS Military Museum.

Next Matt George went into character as Private George of the 134th New York Volunteer Infantry, presenting the living history program that he has performed numerous times for historical societies, classes and many other groups. As Private George he is the friend of three actual members of the unit who had all worked together at Crane's mill in Mohawkville, now an area of Rotterdam. Describing their experiences from the time of their enlistment at Ketcham's Tavern in Schenectady to their deaths, he examines their emotions as well as his own having survived Chancellorsville and the especially heavy fighting at Gettysburg. Alas, his friends did not survive the war. After his living history presentation was completed, Matt then explained it was actually factual information about the regiment or his three "friends" that he had found from his extensive research on the unit and what he has surmised or embellished. Even then, he has used scholarly research on Civil War soldiers and their feelings about courage and death for his interpretation.

In spite of the program being a last minute substitute presentation, the audience agreed that it was very well done and every bit as enjoyable and informative as those of any of our visiting speakers.

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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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