



*The Dispatch*  
Newspaper of the

**CAPITAL DISTRICT  
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

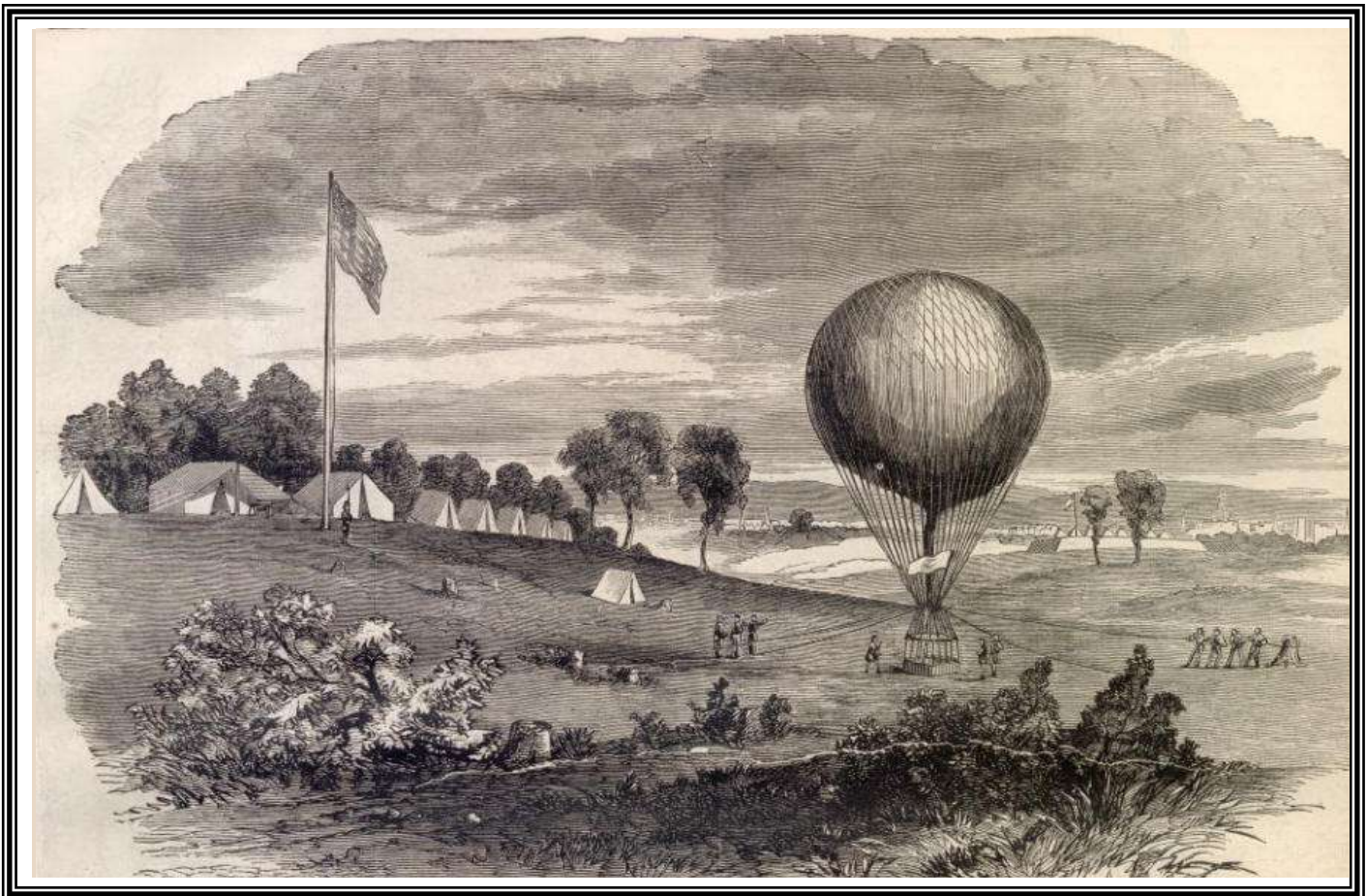
PO Box 14871 Albany, NY 12212  
[www.AlbanyCivilWar.org](http://www.AlbanyCivilWar.org)



Volume 28, Number 4

April 2011

**GEN. MC DOWELL TO USE WAR BALLOON  
FOR RECONNAISSANCE**



**APRIL MEETING  
FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2011  
WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER  
1541 BROADWAY  
WATERVLIET, NY**

**“The Infernal Balloon”**

**Maj. Joseph C. Scott**

Social Hour	6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting	7:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Presentation	7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Questions & Answers	8:30 – 9:00 p.m.
More Socializing	9:00 – 10:00 p.m.

**CDCWRT MEETING**

*The April meeting of the Capital District Civil War Round Table will be on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will be held at our new location at the Watervliet Senior Center, 1541 Broadway in Watervliet. Our special guest speaker is Major Joseph C. Scott, U.S. Army, and his presentation is entitled, “The Infernal Balloon’: Union Aeronautics During the American Civil War.”*

*During the Civil War, the military use of a number of inventions occurred. Some of these uses were logical such as the military use of the telegraph and the breech-loading rifle. The military use of the railroad to rapidly transport troops occurred in the First Battle of Bull Run. Early in the war, Lincoln was impressed by the proposed use of the gas balloon for reconnaissance. The Union Army developed a Balloon Corps consisting of seven balloons. When combined with the portable telegraph, the first use of long range artillery with a forward observer occurred during the war. Likewise, the first use of the aircraft carrier occurred during the war (and you thought that belonged to Gen. “Billy” Mitchell). Our guest speaker will discuss the fascinating story of the rise and fall of balloon aviation during the Civil War.*

*Maj. Scott graduated with a B.A. degree with high honors (Magna cum laude) in History from Dartmouth College. He then received his M.A. in History at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. His thesis was entitled “The Rise and Fall of the Safeguard Ballistic Missile Defense System.” He is presently an Instructor of Military History in the History Department, U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Maj. Scott is the recipient of numerous awards including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, and the General of the Army Omar Bradley Leadership Award. He is married and has two children.*

**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.hotmail.com](http://www.nycivilwar150.hotmail.com)

**Friday, May 13, 2011 is the regular meeting of the CDCWRT. Our scheduled speaker is Michael Aikey of the Military Heritage Museum at Saratoga. Mike’s topic is based on an article he wrote for the New York Archives Magazine entitled “Father Abraham’s Boys: The Union and New York sent its share of men to fight in the Civil War, but some of them were children.”**

**On Sunday, May 15, 2011 the Department of New York of the Sons of Union Veterans will commemorate the death of Col. Elmer Ellsworth, the first Union officer killed in the Civil War. The Col. George L. Willard Camp No. 154, Albany, NY, SUV will re-enact his funeral at Ellsworth monument and gravesite at Hudson View Cemetery in Watervliet, NY from 9:00 – 12:30pm. The CDCWRT will be participating and will sponsor a 150<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Postal Cancellation. The public is invited to attend. There are more details on the Sesquicentennial web-site.**

**Friday, June 10, 2011 is the regular meeting of the CDCWRT. Our speaker will be Patrick Schroeder, historian at the National Park at Appomattox. His presentation is entitled "The Fire Zouaves at Bull Run: Heroes or Humbugs?"**

**Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> are the dates for the Civil War Heritage Days at Schuyler Flatts.**

**November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> are the dates for our conference on New York in the Civil War. Mark those new calendars now, so that we can have a 90% membership attendance!**

## **BOARD MEETING**

The March Board Meeting was held on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The treasurer reported \$2267.73 in the general account and \$5567.21 in the preservation account. The Sue Knost Memorial Conference will be held at the NYS Military Heritage Museum in Saratoga on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Tentative guest speakers will include John Hennessy, Juanita Leisch Jensen, Patrick Schroeder and Mike Aikey. Planning is already beginning for the 2012 conference which may be held at Siena College.

The CDCWRT has three local events in the next several months that will require volunteers to man tables and help in set-up. The events include the Siena College Living History Day on April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Schenectady Historical Society Civil War Living History Day on April 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Ellsworth Funeral event in Mechanicsville on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We have volunteers for the first two events, but could always use more help. Regina Daly from the Green County CWRT was present and announced several regional events this summer. They will be listed in our up-coming events section.

## **MARCH MEETING**

Jason Emerson, author of *The Dark Days of Lincoln's Widow: As Revealed by Her Letters and The Madness of Mary Lincoln*, had his audience's full attention as he described the tragedy of Mary Lincoln's mental deterioration, Robert Lincoln's efforts to deal with his mother's condition and the treatment of both by later historians. After examining all the available documentation and consulting with mental health professionals, Emerson definitely feels Mary Lincoln

was mentally ill with what today is called Bipolar Disorder. Her symptoms of depression, delusions, threats against her son, hallucinations and irrational spending sprees are part of a lengthy list of her behaviors lending themselves to this diagnosis. Even in the White House Abraham Lincoln, concerned over his wife's lengthy, utter despair over their son Willie's death in 1862, pointed out the buildings housing Washington's insane asylum, suggesting to her she might end up there if she couldn't pull herself together. The traumatic experiences of being at her husband's side when he was shot and the loss of her third son Tad in 1871 were blows that devastated the already mentally fragile woman.

Robert, her only surviving son, married with his own family, was left behind to deal with his mother's increasingly erratic behavior. At first, hiring a nurse/companion seemed to be the answer until finally her condition deteriorated so severely that it became necessary to place his mother in a sanitarium. Under Illinois law in 1875 a jury trial must be held before someone could be declared insane and legally committed. Mary was brought to trial, found to be insane and placed in Bellevue Place, a private insane asylum with extensive grounds where she had a private room, meals with the director and his family and use of a carriage for outings.

During her stay at Bellevue Place Mary, a distraught and angry woman who was sure she had been wronged, corresponded frequently with James and Myra Bradwell. Eventually with their help, Mary Lincoln was released from Bellevue Place. Not only was Mary terribly angry at Robert for bringing her to trial and placing her in an asylum, but she became obsessed with her finances which were now under Robert's control as the result of the insanity verdict. A brief hearing adjudged her sane, returning her money to her. Mary spent most of the remainder of her life in Europe, finally returning to the United States where she died in 1882 after reconciling with Robert.

Having possession of his father's papers, Robert had the reputation of burning those that would reflect badly on the family or were too personal, and after his death his widow Mary Harlan Lincoln continued to protect the family name. When in 1927 she was approached by Myra Pritchard, granddaughter of James and Myra Bradwell, she found to her dismay Mrs. Pritchard had written a manuscript based on their 1870s exchange of letters with Mary Lincoln. Mary Harlan Lincoln stalled Pritchard, telling her that as Robert's wife, she might have more information for her, arranging another meeting immediately calling in the Lincoln family attorney Frederic N. Towers. He negotiated with Mrs. Pritchard, buying the letters and manuscript for Mrs. Lincoln who presumably destroyed them. Mrs. Pritchard, although forbidden by the contract to do so,



kept copies of the letters and the manuscript, though both were destroyed by other family members. Later researchers knew there once had been some letters, but it was assumed they had disappeared.

Jason Emerson, while at Hildene doing research for his coming biography of Robert Lincoln, discovered two letters written by Lincoln family attorney Frederic N. Towers regarding the Pritchard case and given this lead, began searching for Pritchard and Towers descendants. From a Pritchard relative he was able to recover legal correspondence relating to the Pritchard-Lincoln case, while from the Towers family he obtained copies of the 1870s letters written between Mary Todd Lincoln and Myra and James Bradwell. Apparently Frederic N. Towers himself kept copies of the letters, storing them in a trunk where they remained forgotten in the family attic for decades until Emerson inquired about any papers relating to the case.

Uncovering this documentation meant Emerson could relate the sequence of Mary Todd Lincoln's illness, trial and sanitarium stay more accurately and in more detail than any previous writer, clarifying Robert Lincoln's actions in the context of his times. Unlike biographer Jean Baker, whose life of Mary Todd Lincoln portrayed her as sane and her son as a villain, Emerson has given us a more realistic and balanced picture of an unhappy woman in the throes of serious mental illness whose son was trying to cope fairly and lovingly.

*This excellent summary was provided by the Round Table's secretary, Mary Ellen Johnson.*

## THE ROAD TO WAR – Part 6

Louis Wigfall, a senator from Texas and a spokesman for a Southern Confederacy, brought the stunning news of Anderson's action to Secretary Floyd. A group immediately went to see Pres. Buchanan to demand that he order Anderson to return to Moultrie. But Buchanan wanted to meet with his cabinet. At the meeting Floyd railed against Anderson. The new Secretary of State, Jeremiah Black, reminded everyone that Floyd himself had given Anderson the right to move. Buell's letter with Floyd's signature was pulled up and reviewed. Floyd finally resigned on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Buchanan then let Black write his official response on December 31<sup>st</sup> to the demand that Anderson be moved. **"This I cannot do; this I will not do."**

Gen. Winfield Scott met with Buchanan and urged reinforcements for Anderson. A plan was devised to move soldiers from New York City on a civilian ship because the channel in Charleston was too shallow for warships. In Charleston, Gov. Pickens learned South Carolina was not ready for war. Within a week the cadets from the Citadel had a battery set up on Morris Island. In the north, Anderson was hailed as a hero. In a message he indicated that his position was steadily improving but that the militia was

erecting batteries at the harbor entrance that would make resupply of Sumter dangerous. In early January Gen. Scott leased a private merchant ship, the Star of the West. It was loaded with supplies and 200 soldiers and left New York on January 5<sup>th</sup> with great secrecy. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, there was a flurry of reports about the ship in Charleston as well as an article in the New York Times. Gov. Pickens ordered his soldiers to fire upon the vessel if sighted.

On the morning of January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Star of the West was ready to enter Charleston Harbor, flying the American flag. The Star was spotted by the battery that was manned by the cadets. Technically, one of the cadets fired the first shot of the Civil War. The Star hoped Anderson would see it and begin to fire at the militia battery. Moultrie joined in with a few ineffective shots, and then the Star turned and retreated out to sea and eventually back to New York. At Sumter, Doubleday saw the Star. Cannon facing Morris Island and Moultrie were loaded and made ready to fire, but Anderson hesitated. He could see that the militia fire was ineffective; he still was under orders not to provoke a fight. When the Star turned, Anderson said **"Hold on; do not fire. I will wait."** For the first time, Anderson told his officers of his orders to not precipitate an event. Anderson had not known that Washington was attempting to send reinforcements. He also felt Sumter was not yet ready for war and he did not want to start a war.

Gov. Pickens delivered an ultimatum to Anderson to leave Sumter, which implied an attack was imminent. By now Mississippi, Florida and Alabama had seceded. Even though Talbot had already been sent to Washington, Anderson suggested one of Pickens' staff and Lt. Hall hand carry the ultimatum to Washington for an answer. This would avoid immediate bloodshed, and both sides realized the delay could be used by both to prepare. Talbot delivered a first person account of events to President Buchanan. Things were falling apart for Buchanan. Most disturbing however were events happening in Pensacola, Florida. Fort Pickens contained 210 cannons to protect the large naval base there. It was larger than Sumter and could house 1200 men but only 47 men of Company G, U.S. First Artillery, under Lt. Adam Slemmer, were stationed nearby. On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Slemmer received a dispatch from Gen. Scott to do his utmost to prevent the forts from being seized. Slemmer, like Anderson, moved his command to a more defensible position. Buchanan ordered the army and the navy to send a fleet and soldiers to reinforce Slemmer.

Lt. Talbot returned to Sumter with messages. Sec. of War Holt apologized that Anderson did not know of the attempt to reinforce him with the Star of the West. Holt also said that since the garrison at the moment was safe, there would be no further reinforcements, since to do so would lead to war. Gov. Pickens's representative and Lt. Hall arrived in Washington and presented Buchanan with the ultimatum. A week later, in early February, there was an official rejection. On February 6<sup>th</sup> Gov. Pickens ordered a

bombardment of Sumter. Again his military commanders indicated the guns were not ready and ammunition was limited. Moreover, Jefferson Davis had been urging him to let the new Confederacy take over the problem of Sumter. On February 9<sup>th</sup> in Montgomery, AL the Confederacy elected Davis as the first president and passed a resolution claiming sovereignty over all questions involving Ft. Sumter. A Southern artillery expert, Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard was appointed the first Brig.-Gen. in the Confederate Army and was ordered to Charleston.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> Lincoln arrived in Washington. Since his election he had repeatedly indicated that he would not attempt to eliminate slavery in the existing states that still had slavery. However he would not allow slavery in any new states. This meant that the Congressional power of the slave states would slowly and steadily diminish. Lincoln visited Buchanan and Scott on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Inauguration was March 4<sup>th</sup> and after Lincoln's speech, Wigfall wired Charleston, "**Inaugural means war.**" Anderson had begun to realize that a peaceful solution was waning and that the seceded states were not going to return to the Union. He stated the garrison was running out of provisions. It was estimated it would take a 20,000 man force to land on Morris Island and clear out the batteries. Lincoln also discovered that his treasury was empty, the army demoralized, and his civil service rotten with treason. Gen. Scott said "**I now see no other alternative but a surrender.**" Lincoln was also concerned about Ft. Pickens. He did not want to lose two forts, so he told Scott to reinforce Pickens immediately.

Lincoln's first cabinet meeting was March 9<sup>th</sup> and he informed the cabinet of Sumter's need to be evacuated. Within a day Charleston newspapers had announced that Sumter would be evacuated. The source of the story was a "top Republican Senator," probably Seward. The garrison got the same news from local newspapers, but no official report. But by March 18<sup>th</sup> nothing had changed and now both sides were becoming anxious. Lincoln was not entirely convinced of the need to evacuate. Salmon Chase felt sending food to Sumter would not lead to war. Montgomery Blair felt that NOT sending provisions would convince the Confederacy that Washington had no backbone, and this would lead to war. Lincoln decided to send emissaries to Charleston to scout out the ground.

Gustavus Vasa Fox had graduated from the Naval Academy in 1841 and spent 15 years at sea before retiring. After the Star of the West disaster, he began developing a plan to reinforce Sumter using fast, shallow draught, steam tugs to bring supplies from a fleet outside the harbor. Fox was invited to the cabinet meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>. He was then sent to Charleston to deliver official messages to Anderson on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Gov. Pickens granted Fox permission to visit Sumter. Anderson gave Fox a tour of the fort explaining all the reasons why an expedition to reinforce would be hopeless because of Confederate guns. Nonetheless, Fox was convinced his plan would work. Steven Hurlbut, a former 30 year resident of Charleston and a Lincoln friend, arrived in the city on March 25<sup>th</sup>. He was convinced that a

ship with only provisions, would be stopped. Ward Hill Lamon was Lincoln's third emissary. He met with Gov. Pickens who warned any attempt to provision Sumter would result in war. Lamon was allowed to visit Anderson and indicated quite clearly the fort would be evacuated. Lamon then returned to Pickens, who agreed to use a civilian steamship to pick up the garrison. Lamon said he would be back in a few days to make final arrangements. He even wrote a letter to Pickens after he returned to Washington, confirming their conversation. In fact however, Lamon had absolutely no authority to give such a promise.

By March 30<sup>th</sup>, still no orders had arrived for Anderson. Lincoln had arrived at a new conclusion. If he had a relief expedition ready, he would have the option of using it. Although he never admitted it, Lincoln may have concluded war was inevitable, and it would be far better for the Confederacy to fire the first shot. Jefferson Davis was thinking the same thing at Pensacola, where he sent the second appointed Confederate general, Braxton Bragg. Lincoln now took Fox's list of requirements to Sec. of the Navy, Gideon Wells with directions to have everything ready for April 6<sup>th</sup> in case he wanted to proceed with Fox's plan.

April 4<sup>th</sup> was busy. Senator Wigfall joined Gen. Beauregard's staff. Lincoln received Anderson's letter of April 1<sup>st</sup> and it pushed him to action. A flurry of messages went out. A relief force was being launched and the President hoped Anderson could hold out to April 12<sup>th</sup>. Provisions were to be sent, but if South Carolina attempted to stop it, reinforcements would try to land as well. If Anderson felt he could not hold out, he was authorized to surrender. At the fort, Anderson prepared. Each man was reduced to 2 crackers a day and salt pork. Preparations were made to unload supplies quickly from the wharf. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, the naval officer sent from Pensacola by land, finally arrived and reported to the Navy Department. The Sec. of the Navy was shocked to learn that the reinforcements had not been landed. Lincoln could lose both Sumter and Ft. Pickens. The President was informed and another naval officer was sent immediately with orders for Pensacola.

Jefferson Davis was also notified by Gov. Pickens on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Early on April 10<sup>th</sup> Davis' Sec. of War, Leroy Walker, wired Gen. Beauregard to immediately demand Sumter's evacuation, and if refused, proceed to reduce it. Beauregard replied he would present the ultimatum at noon on April 11<sup>th</sup>. He delayed because a highly accurate Blakely cannon was being put in position, and a supply of gunpowder had arrived from Georgia and needed to be parceled out.

At 3:45pm on April 11<sup>th</sup> three men led by James Chestnut rowed to Sumter to talk to Anderson. Beauregard had promised transportation of the men and their belonging and their flag to any Union port. Anderson and his officers rejected the offer. As the three were leaving, Anderson asked, "**Will Gen. Beauregard open his batteries without further notice to me?**" Chestnut replied, "**No, I can say to you that he will not, without giving you further notice.**"

At the boat Anderson said **“Gentlemen, if you do not batter the fort to pieces about us, we shall be starved out in a few days.”** When this was reported to Beauregard, he wired Montgomery for instructions. If Anderson would promise to not use his guns unless fired upon, and if he would state exactly when he would leave the fort, it would not be necessary to bombard Sumter.

This message was carried by the same 3 aides to Anderson late at night. At 1:30am on April 12<sup>th</sup> Anderson read the message and consulted with his officers. The unacceptable phrase was “unless fired upon.” If Fox’s fleet arrived and started into the harbor and the Confederates fired upon the fleet, Anderson and his men agreed they would fire upon the Confederates. They stated they would leave the fort at noon on April 15<sup>th</sup> assuming they had not been fired upon and that no new orders had been received. This was presented to Beauregard’s aides at 3:20am. Although Anderson’s reply did not exactly reject Beauregard’s offer, it did not accept them. James Chestnut, following Beauregard’s expressed wishes said the shore batteries would open fire in one hour. Anderson shook each aides hand and returned to the fort. He told his men to expect the attack within the hour. He urged them to try to get some sleep. He reminded everyone they would not return fire until dawn. He ordered the American flag be raised.

Capt. George James commanded a mortar battery on James Island. The 2 mortars on the beach were commanded by Lt. Henry Farley. He inserted the friction tape into the gun tube and waited for James’ signal. At 4:30am he pulled the lanyard. The first shell exploded over Sumter. Beauregard had ordered the 43 guns to fire in a counterclockwise fashion around the harbor at two minute intervals. He wanted to conserve ammunition for he only had enough for a 48 hour bombardment. Edmund Ruffin, the Virginian fire-eater, had stayed with the Palmetto Guard at Cummings Point. He was given the honor of firing a 64-pound shell from the large columbiad. For years he believed and others reported that he fired the first shot. Likewise the residents of Charleston, including Mary Chestnut, had expected the bombardment to begin on the 11<sup>th</sup>, but had gone to bed disappointed. After the first shell, they raced to rooftops to watch the bombardment while being served breakfast and snacks. At 9:00 the first telegram for Montgomery arrived from Charleston. **“The deed is done!”**

At Sumter there was no return fire. There was no light in the casements to see the cannons, let alone load them. Doubleday and Company E would open the battle. At 6:30 they pulled back the heavy shutters from 4 embrasures facing the Iron Battery on Cummings Point. Doubleday’s first shot was high; he readjusted his cannon and fired again. His 6<sup>th</sup> shot struck the slanted roof of the Iron Battery and glanced off harmlessly. The cannons in the casements were a smaller caliber and could only be fired at too flat an angle to be effective. The most serious deficiency for Doubleday was a shortage of cartridge bags. The garrison had plenty of gunpowder, but only about 500

bags. There was little cloth at Sumter and only 6 large sewing needles. By the time of the start of the bombardment, they had made an additional 200 bags.

The three interior buildings at Sumter were made of mostly wood. After the tile roofs were destroyed, fires began. These were put out several times. About 1:00pm a lookout at Sumter saw the arrival of some ships from Fox’s fleet. Anderson signaled that he was still holding out, but the fleet had its own troubles. A storm along the coast had tossed the fleet about. The cutter Harriet Lane had arrived on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Around 3:00am on the 12<sup>th</sup>, the unarmed steamer Baltic arrived. Just after dawn the warship Pawnee arrived. Three tugs were nowhere in sight. Fox decided to wait for more ships. If they had not arrived by the next morning, they would use the rowboats instead. At 7:00pm Anderson’s batteries ceased firing. Beauregard’s batteries ceased except for two batteries of mortars that fired every quarter hour to harass the men at Sumter. America outside of South Carolina was gradually learning about the attack on Sumter.

In Pensacola on the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup>, Capt. Adams dropped his reinforcements to save Ft. Pickens and Lt. Slemmer. Lt. Worden returning from Washington had arrived hours before the knowledge of the Sumter attack had arrived for the Confederate forces there. Had Worden not been delayed by the same storm that scattered the fleet, he might have arrived a day earlier. Adams would have deposited his reinforcements earlier, and Gen. Bragg might have attacked Ft. Pickens on the 11<sup>th</sup> and instead the war may have started in Florida.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of bombardment began slowly. Both sides were conserving their firing, the Confederates low on ammunition, and the garrison low on cartridges. At 7:30am a mortar shell exploded in the officers’ quarters and started a brisk fire. By 8:00am giant clouds of smoke billowed from Sumter. Frustratingly, the waves were still too high for the fleet to attempt anything. The fire spread to the main gate and burned the carriages of the cannon on the parapet that covered the wharf. The fort was now wide open to an infantry assault. The fire also threatened the magazine and its 300 barrels of gunpowder. Some were removed, and then the heavy copper doors were closed. A chance shot from a Confederate cannon hit the doors and bent them so they could no longer be opened. Around 1:00pm the flagstaff fell, which began a series of events that would end all this.

When a shell hit the 10-story flagstaff, the Confederate gunners and the crowd cheered. Amid bursting shells and thick smoke, Lts Seymour and Snyder retrieved the flag. One of the soldiers, Peter Hart, found a spar which was carried up to the parapet. Hart nailed the flag to the spar and the spar was nailed to a gun carriage. When the flag fell, Beauregard’s aides at Cummings point conferred and agreed a boat should go to Sumter immediately. Louis Wigfall commandeered a rowboat and went to Sumter. He failed to hear the shouts that the flag had gone up again. By the time he landed at the fort the shelling had resumed, so he climbed through an embrasure and announced to the surprised soldiers he wanted to speak to Maj. Anderson. Meantime a vessel carrying the authentic messengers from Beauregard had left Charleston but stopped

when the flag had gone up again. They were to offer assistance to the garrison to put out the fires, but were not carrying any offer to make peace. At Sumter, Wigfall said "You are on fire and your flag is down. Let us quit." But Anderson's officers showed Wigfall the restored flag. He realized that the garrison had not been defeated and his whole mission had been based on a misconception. Anderson appeared. Wigfall said "Gen. Beauregard wishes to stop this." Anderson knew he had just 4 small barrels of gunpowder and 3 cartridge bags left; the fleet had not moved; they had no food left. Now a messenger from Beauregard offered a truce, and did not demand a surrender. A truce meant that he and his garrison had not been defeated. "On what terms, Maj. Anderson, will you evacuate this fort?" Anderson's terms had been given to James Chestnut 2 days before, namely that they salute their flag as they lowered it, that they leave with their belongings and company property, and that they be supplied transportation north. On these conditions only, the fort would belong to the Confederacy. Wigfall left and his white flag was raised over Sumter and the American flag taken down. The real messengers from Beauregard were more confused and now resumed their trip to Sumter. The shelling ceased. Wigfall rushed off to tell Beauregard. Meantime the real messengers arrived at Sumter and met with Anderson and things quickly got complicated. Anderson told them of his agreement with Wigfall. The messengers replied that Wigfall had not seen Beauregard in the past 2 days and was not advised on any conditions.

Anderson was furious and embarrassed, and now threatened to raise his flag and start firing again. The aides were stunned, but asked to parlay with Anderson. While they were talking, two more aides arrived from Beauregard to offer terms that were similar to what had been discussed 2 days earlier EXCEPT Anderson would not be permitted to salute the flag. Anderson showed to the new aides what Wigfall had promised. All 5 aides left, but one later returned with word that Beauregard cheerfully agreed to the salute to the flag. Thus ended the second day of the Civil War. Miraculously no one had been killed on either side despite the 1000 shots fired by Sumter and the 3341 shots fired at Sumter.

Later that morning Fox was informed that Anderson had surrendered the fort. One of the civilian steamers was allowed to come in and dock near Sumter to load up with the personal belongings of the soldiers. It was not until 2:30pm that the salute to the flag was started. It was to be a 100 gun salute. The garrison soldiers had been making more cartridge bags for this. Just before the count reached 50 there was an explosion when one of the guns accidentally fired prematurely. Pvt. Daniel Hough was ramming a cartridge bag into the muzzle when it exploded ripping off his right arm at the shoulder and killing him. He was the first casualty of the Civil War. When the cannon fired prematurely, some sparks ignited a pile of cartridge bags nearby, exploding them. Everyone in the gun crew was injured. The rest of the garrison left with the flag still nailed to the temporary flagstaff; their band played Yankee Doodle. It was after 4:30pm. The steamer was now stuck on a shoal at low tide and would have to stay there until the morning of April 15<sup>th</sup>.

On arrival in New York City a massive crowd of 150,000-250,000 people greeted the men as heroes. The men of Co. E and H spent a few weeks with their families and then were sent to the new war in the Shenandoah Valley. All 10 of the garrison's officers were dead or medically retired by 1874. None would die in battle. Charleston held out until the end of the war, but Asst. Sec. of the Navy Fox obsessed over this. Repeated attacks were made against Sumter battering it to rubble firing over 50,000 shells against her. With Sherman's invasion of South Carolina, Charleston fell on February 17, 1865 Anderson was made a brigadier-general but in 1863 resigned for reasons of health. An army report cited "softening of the brain" In 1865 Sec. of War Stanton asked him to perform one last symbolic service. The fort had officially fallen on April 14, 1861. Stanton wanted Gen. Anderson to raise that same flag on April 14, 1865. Stanton invited numerous, prominent dignitaries.

The ceremony opened with a prayer by the same chaplain Harris who prayed on the December 27<sup>th</sup> 1861 when the flag was raised at Sumter. Anderson held the scorched and ripped flag in his hands and said, "After four long, long years of war, I restore to its proper place this dear flag." He prayed at all nations one day would proclaim, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men." The band played the Star-Spangled Banner and on the closing lines, many people wept and hugged one another. That night at a banquet, Anderson proposed a toast. "to the health of another man we all love to honor – the man who when elected president of the United States, was compelled to reach the seat of government without an escort, but a man who now could travel all over our country with millions of hands and hearts to sustain him. I give you the good, the great, the honest man, Abraham Lincoln."

It was a few minutes after 10pm almost at the precise moment John Wilkes Booth pulled the trigger of a derringer at the head of the President.

## THE END OF THE BEGINNING

I apologize for the smaller size print in this last installment. I had hoped to finish it in 7 installments but with the tragic death of Sue Knost, one on the newsletters was dedicated to her eulogy. This meant that two parts were combined here in order to finish with the April newsletter. MAF

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# From the Front Lines To the Front Lawn

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

Saturday, April 9, 2011  
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  
History Club at [historyclub@siena.edu](mailto:historyclub@siena.edu).

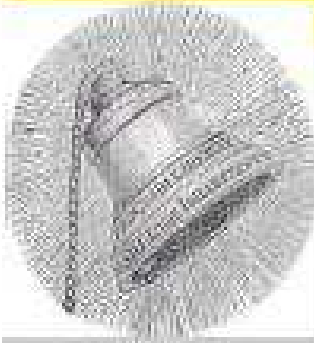


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# Save the Date



## Abolishing Slavery in the Atlantic World: The 'Underground Railroad' in the Americas, Africa, and Europe

April 8-10, 2011

# Sage

The 10th annual Underground Railroad Public History Conference  
A new interpretation of a very old story

Hosted by The Sage Colleges, Troy, New York

Organized by Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, Inc.

### Friday 4/8/11

day: *Educator Workshop*

Speakers: Charles Reitz, PhD - Douglass, Marx, Greeley, and the German 48ers  
Alan Singer, PhD - Abolitionists and Slavery in NY

evening: *Opening Lecture and Reception*

Speaker: Robin Blackburn, PhD - The International Struggle to End the  
Slave Trade and Its Ramifications Today



Blackburn



Burroughs



Knight

### Saturday 4/9/11

day: *Workshops, Exhibits, Vendors, and more*

Speakers: Franklin Knight, PhD - Of Slavery & Abolition: Perspectives from the World of the Slaves  
Tony Burroughs - Heritage Preservation Through Genealogical Research  
30+ presentations from scholars, re-enactors, independent researchers, students

evening: *Art Exhibit and Reception*

Featuring: Black Dimensions in Art



Peter, Paul,  
& George



European



Deuts



Maggie



Ruckers

### Sunday 4/10/11

*Culture Through an African Lens*

day: Eshu Bumpus, Peter, Paul & George, Hamilton Hill Arts Center, Garland Nelson, MaryNell Morgan

evening : Maggie and Sparky & Rhonda Rucker and Graham & Barbara Dean

Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, Inc. researches, preserves,  
and celebrates New York's history of the Underground Railroad in its national and  
international context, highlighting the role of African-American freedom seekers  
and abolitionists and the relationship of the UGR with us today.

*Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, Inc.*

P.O. Box 10851 - Albany, New York 12201 - 518-432-4432 - [www.ugrworkshop.com](http://www.ugrworkshop.com)

*URHPCR is provisionally chartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York*



URHPCR  
Conferences  
are part of the  
National Park  
Service  
Network to  
Freedom

Conference events are open to all who are interested - Please join us - It's a great way to spend a weekend!



*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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