



The Camp Griffin Gazette

News and Information from the Green Mountain Civil War Round Table

Vol. XVII, No. 4 – April 2009

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**“12th NEW HAMPSHIRE
SERENADE BAND”**

Steve Gasiorowski

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2009

THE BLACK ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

ROUTE 4

QUECHEE, VERMONT

6:00 -6:30 Social Hour

6:30 – 7:00 Buffet Dinner

7:00 Business Meeting

7:15 Program, followed by discussion

9:00 Adjournment

Guaranteed dinner reservations **MUST BE MADE** by 7 p.m., April 12, 2009. **Cost per person for the buffet dinner is \$18.00.** There is no assurance that additional meals will be available if you have not made a reservation. Should they be available, there will be an additional \$2.00 charge per meal. For the meeting and program only, there is a donation of \$2.00 for members and \$4.00 for non-members. For reservations please contact Gail Blake at 802-296-2919 or e-mail her at auntis@comcast.net.

**Welcome New Members
Paul and Sally Zeller**

Steve Gasiorowski

Steve Gasiorowski is the current manager of the 12 th NH Volunteer Regiment Serenade band, a small Civil War re-enactment brass band based in the Lakes Region of NH performing music of the War on period instruments. The 12 th NHV has been the regular band at the Vermont Civil War Expo for the past seven years. Steve first got involved in performing Civil War period brass band music in 1975 while attending Colby College in Waterville Maine. He became fascinated by the differences between mid - 19 th century brass horns and the music performed compared to 20th century bands. He has been a member of the Yankee Brass Band (www.yankeebrassband.org) since 1987 and has also performed with the Centennial Cornet Band of Portland, ME, (www.centennialbrassband.com), and the Federal City Brass Band of Baltimore, MD (www.jvmusic.net/FCBB.html). Steve is also a regular member of the Newmont Military Band of Windsor, VT (www.newmontmilitaryband.org), a recreation of an 1890's style band. Steve does maintain a day job as a consulting analytical chemist to fund his musical interests.

The Ellis Island Immigrant Cookbook

We still have some copies of The Ellis Island Immigrant Cookbook for sale at \$20 each. The book was written by Tom Bernardin, our NYC guide for this spring's CW Journey. The cookbook is a unique collection of heartwarming memories and recipes from our immigrant ancestors who passed through Ellis Island. *“This loving tribute to our immigrant ancestors will be of interest to historians and cooks and to all whose families came through this ‘golden door’.”* **ACADEMIC LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW**

Tom has made these books available to us at a reduced rate so that we can use them as a fundraising opportunity. So,

support your Roundtable and purchase a unique gift at the same time! The books will be available at our Round Table meetings or can also be delivered by mail. Contact: Gail Blake at auntis@comcast.net or 802-296-2919.

The *Camp Griffin Gazette* is the monthly newsletter of the Green Mountain Civil War Round Table. Editor: Ginny Gage. We encourage and welcome all contributions and suggestions.

Send news and information to:

Ginny Gage

365 East Road

Cornish, NH 03745 or

E-mail: lewandginny@emailmv.com

The deadline for the May 2009 newsletter is April 27, 2009.

Green Mountain Civil War Round Table March 2009— March 2010 Membership Rates

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

E-mail
address _____

- Single \$20.00 (includes newsletter)
- Student \$10.00 (includes newsletter)
- Two Person \$35.00 (includes newsletter)
- Family \$50.00 (includes newsletter)
- Newsletter subscription alone – ten issues

\$10.00

Is this a new membership _____
renewal _____

Dues are payable to: GMCWRT c/o Mary B. Davis, 54 Renihan Meadows, Lebanon, NH 03766.

2009 Program Schedule Program Chair: Peter Sinclair

May 12 Dick Simpson - "Missouri 1861 and the Battle of Wilson's Creek"

June 9 Craig L. Symonds, author of "Lincoln and His Admirals"

Other Round Table Meetings and Happenings

April 9 – Major McKinley Camp #9 – Sons of Union Veterans Meeting – 7 p.m. – Soldiers Memorial Building, North Park Street, Lebanon, NH. Camp Members, Junior Members, SUVCW Auxiliary Members, and guests are welcome! For more information: http://www.geocities.com/suvcwlebanonnh/classic_blue.html

April 10 – CDCWRT –Meeting to be held at the Guilderland Public Library. For more information, check out their web site: www.cdcwrt.org

April 16 – Joshua L. Chamberlain Civil War Round Table – Kate Clifford Larson of Winchester, MA, speaking on her book, "The Assassin's Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln." Meetings at the Curtis (Brunswick, ME) Memorial Library, 7 p.m. For more information contact Sue Bailey at sebailey273@wmconnect.com

April 17 – NHCWRT – David Thomson – "Oliver Otis Howard." Please check out their web site for more information: www.cwrt-nh.org/

April 22 – NEKCWRT – Tyler Alexander – "Andersonville." For more information, contact Joan Huguenin at PoohBahToo@hotmail.com or 802-754-6402.

Sons of Union Veterans Ripley Camp would like to invite all men to any of their monthly meetings at the Rutland American Legion on Washington Street on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. They are also looking for speakers for their winter/spring programs and would love anyone with a program they'd like to present to contact Jim Proctor at civilproctor@comcast.net

Check out The Ripley Camp #4 web site at: www.ripleycamp.netfirms.com/

Lincoln Bicentennial

To check out activities honoring the 200th anniversary of the birth of our 16th President, check out the website for the Bicentennial at: www.abrahamlincoln200.org
Or: www.lincolnbicentennial.gov

In Vermont, the state liaison for the Bicentennial is Dr. John M. McCardell, President Emeritus at Middlebury College, Painter House, Middlebury, VT 05753 – 802-443-5343 or e-mail at mccardel@middlebury.edu

President Lincoln's Cottage, Upshur Street at Rock Creek Church Road, NW, Washington, District of Columbia 20011
www.presidentlincoln.org

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Soldiers Memorial Building
Lebanon, NH**

Our newest Round Table member, Gary Ward, has invited us to a tour of the Soldiers Memorial Building on North Park Street, Lebanon, NH, on April 9, beginning at **6 p.m.** Some of you will remember we visited this building a number of years ago and had a wonderful tour of the Civil War artifacts stored there and the beautiful Civil War stained glass windows. These windows have recently been restored.

If you are planning to attend, please contact us at: lewandginny@emailmv.com, by phone at 603-542-4664, or send us a note: Lew and Ginny Gage, 365 East Road, Cornish, NH 03745.

The artist who repaired the stained glass windows will be there as well. This is an opportunity to visit one of the few G.A.R. buildings still in use as a meeting location for Civil War descendants.

Folks signed up as of March 30:

Richard Brewster
Mary Davis
Alice Evans
Dave & Edna Curtin
Bob & Elaine Coburn
Frank and Sally Furs
Tom McKenna
Whitney Maxfield
Nancy Miville
Brian Smith
Lew and Ginny Gage

**Lincoln and Dr. Leale: The First Surgeon to
Attend President Lincoln at Ford's Theatre.
By Herb Kaufman**

On March 1, 1865 at the age of 23, Charles Augustus Leale received his medical degree from Bellevue Hospital Medical College of New York. Charles Leale held President Lincoln in the greatest admiration. He made a point to be present when Lincoln made his last public address on April 11, 1865. The theme of this final speech was reconstruction and national unity. The President stated that he was aware of the differing opinions on the method and substance of reconstruction and that the loyal people of the North "differ among ourselves as to the mode, manner, and means of reconstruction." He continued that the "so-called" seceded states are "out of their proper practical relation with the Union," and it was the nation's duty to "join in doing the acts necessary to restoring the proper practical relations between these states and the Union."

Dr. Leale carefully observed the President and noted the "almost divine appearance of the President's face in the glow of the light from the White House."

Dr. Leale heard that the President would be attending Ford's Theatre to see the comic play *Our American Cousin*. He completed his duties as Surgeon-in-Charge of the Wounded Commissioned Officers at the United States Army General Hospital, Armory Square, Washington D. C. and rushed to the theatre where he purchased a ticket in the Dress Circle, about 40 feet from the President's box.

The President and Mrs. Lincoln arrived as the play was already in progress. As they entered the theatre, the play stopped and the orchestra struck up "Hail to the Chief." Lincoln was greeted by "thunderous applause" as he walked to his box. He paused several times to acknowledge the crowd. Yet, Dr. Leale noted that the President's countenance appeared "mournful and sad."

The play then continued and just past ten o'clock, Leale noticed a man "endeavoring to enter" the President's box. He again looked toward the stage as he enjoyed the amusing dialogue when he heard the "report of a pistol" echo through the theatre. Dr. Leale then recorded that "I saw a man with dark hair and bright black eyes, leap from the box to the stage below, while descending he threw himself a little forward and raised his shining dagger in the air, which reflected the light as though it had been a diamond, when he struck the stage he stumbled a little forward but with a bound regained the use of his limbs and ran to the opposite side of the stage soon disappearing behind the scenes."

Not believing what he had just witnessed, Dr. Leale remained seated until he heard a call for a surgeon to proceed to the Presidential box. Pushing through the crowd he arrived at the box and was quickly admitted. He observed President Lincoln sitting with his head bent to the right, being held by Mrs. Lincoln who was "weeping bitterly." She looked at him and called, "Oh Doctor do what you can for my dear husband."

Surgeon Leale examined the President and found him to be breathing laboriously, and comatose. Dr. Leale had the President placed on the floor and proceeded to examine his wound. He first thought that Mr. Lincoln had been stabbed. Not seeing any wound, he felt the back of Lincoln's head and probed the wound by passing "my little finger of my left hand directly through the perfectly smooth opening made by the ball." This released a small piece of coagulated blood, after which Lincoln's breathing improved. Surgeon Leale then placed a small amount of brandy and water into Mr. Lincoln's mouth.

At this time Dr. Charles S. Taft and Dr. Albert F.A. King arrived at the President's box. Consulting with Dr. Leale, they agreed that the President had to be moved. Dr. Leale, holding the President's head in his hands, lead the procession out of the theatre and across the street to the Petersen House.

During the long night, Dr. Leale remained at Mr. Lincoln's side, holding his right hand until the President passed into history.

On April 19, Dr. Leale was Honor Guard at the head of President Lincoln's catafalque during the memorial service at the White House. He rode in the carriage immediately proceeding the catafalque as it made its way to the Capitol. There, Dr. Leale again served as Honor Guard during the funeral service.

In his later years, Surgeon Leale rarely spoke of the events of that fatal night. In 1909, upon the 100th Anniversary of Lincoln's birth, Dr. Leale delivered his address, "Lincoln's Last Hours," which was his sole recorded memoir of his visit to Ford's Theatre and the momentous events of that evening.

Dr. Charles A. Leale passed away in 1932 and is buried in his hometown of Yonkers, New York.

2009 GMCWRT BATTLEFIELD JOURNEY

April 30-May 4, 2009

Join us this spring as we embark upon our annual CW related journey. We will be mixing things up a bit this year, adding a few historic sites from other eras to our itinerary. Our first stop will be Grant's Cottage near Saratoga Springs NY and then we will move on to visit FDR's Hyde Park, the USMA at West Point, Ellis Island, Grant's Tomb, many NYC Civil War related sites, and Watervliet Arsenal. The cost of our journey will be approximately \$600 per person, based on double occupancy, and will include RT motorcoach transportation from WRJct VT, 4 nights lodging at Homewood Suites by Hilton in Mahwah NJ, most meals, all guide and admission fees, driver gratuity, information packet, and refreshments.

A \$75 deposit per person is required, deposit is 50% refundable if you cancel, 100% refundable if the trip is cancelled. Deadline for sign up is March 30th. Our complete itinerary will be available early in 2009, our guides are still working on the logistics and haven't divulged many details as yet.

The trip is open to all interested persons, you don't have to be a member to join us!

Deposits should be sent to Gail Blake, 55 Orizzonto Road, WRJct VT 05001, and checks made payable to the GMCWRT.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Gail at auntis@comcast.net or by phone at 802-296-2919

*"I am now the most miserable man living.
If what I feel were distributed to the
entire human family, there would not be
one happy face on the Earth."
Abraham Lincoln*

Monument to Civil War Regiment and Medal of Honor recipients completed:

By Jim Fouts

Barre, VT—The Eighteenth Vermont Regiment, Inc. a contemporary Civil War historic preservation organization, has commissioned Rock of Ages to produce a civil memorial to honor the courage and heroism displayed by the men of the 3rd VT Volunteer Infantry Regiment at the battle of Dam No.1 on April 16, 1862. It was at the battle of Dam #1, frequently called the battle of Lee's Mills, that the Vermont troops made their first courageous assault upon Confederate earthworks. Included on one side of the nearly seven foot tall monument are the names of two soldiers who received the Medal of Honor for their bravery on this field of battle.

Funding for the nearly \$18,000 monument was raised through individual donations and the contributions of those who attended the 18th VT Regiment's annual Civil War Expo. An official viewing and presentation will commence at 1PM Saturday May 16th at the Rock of Ages Craftsman Center at 560 Graniteville Road, Graniteville, VT. A ceremony will formally present the monument to the people of Vermont prior to being shipped to its final location at the battle site beside the Warwick River in Newport News, Virginia.

Assigned to lead the assault, Captain Samuel Pingree led the men of the 3rd VT Regiment across the swampy Warwick River and succeeded in driving the defenders from their advanced rifle pits. Although initially successful, the outnumbered Vermont Regiment came under a heavy Confederate counterattack. With no reinforcements coming to help and in spite of being severely wounded, Capt. Pingree brought his men back across the river amid a hail of bullets to their initial position.

Throughout the fight Julian Scott, a drummer boy, crossed the river numerous times at the risk of his life to rescue the wounded. One story goes that he rescued his cousin, William Scott who was mortally wounded in the attack. William Scott, called the "sleeping sentinel" was the first man during the Civil War to be sentenced to be shot for falling asleep while on guard duty and was pardoned by President Lincoln.

For their bravery that day, Samuel Pingree and Julian Scott received the Medal of Honor. Years after the war, Samuel Pingree was elected Governor of Vermont and Julian Scott became a well-known artist. His painting of the Battle of Cedar Creek and three other of his paintings hang in the Vermont statehouse.

Samuel Pingree, Julian Scott and the men of the 3rd VT Volunteer Infantry Regiment will be honored during an open house hosted by the 18th VT Regiment at 1PM on Saturday May 16th at the Rock of Ages Craftsman Center in Graniteville. At that time the monument to these men will be presented to the people of Vermont.

On the Cathedral of the Pines web site there is an online petition for a US stamp.

<http://www.cathedralpinesstamp.org/index.html>

Requesting the United States Postal Service issue a stamp commemorating the patriotic sacrifice of all Americans who have served their country attempting to bring peace and freedom to the world as represented by the all-denominational Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, New Hampshire, featuring the historic "Alter of the Nation" and its inspirational view of Mount Monadnock - the most climbed summit in the world.

JUNE 27, 1863: CONFEDERATES RAID PORTLAND, MAINE!!

By Sue Bailey

The June 26, 1863, New York Daily Tribune headline boasted "The Privateers to be Hunted Down...." Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy, was focusing all of his energy on the capture of the Confederate commerce raiders destroying Union merchant ships in the Atlantic.

The US Revenue Cutter, **Caleb Cushing**, was forced to give up the search and had anchored in



US Revenue Cutter Model

Portland that day; the Captain had died at sea and a new captain was being dispatched out of Boston on the paddle steamer, **Forest City**, scheduled to arrive in Portland the next morning. Most of the **Caleb Cushing's** crew had been granted shore leave to plan a funeral for their captain. The Portland wharves were teeming with stevedores loading cargoes of flour, grain, fish, and corn, some bound for Union Army supply depots. Soldiers from the 7th Maine were assigned to duty on Fort Scammell, an island fortress in the harbor. Citizens were following the news of a large cavalry battle at Brandy Station on June 9th, and skirmishes between the Army of the Potomac and Lee's Army as they moved north toward Maryland and Pennsylvania.

At sunset, the mackerel schooner, **Archer**, sailed into Portland, and anchored off the harbor entrance. No questioned why the schooner didn't dock and offload its cargo...no one knew that the **Archer** had been captured

that morning by Charles "Savez" Read, an Annapolis graduate from Mississippi, and 2nd Lt. in the Confederate Navy. Read had been allowed to leave the commerce raider, **CSS Florida**, 2 months earlier by Capt John Maffitt with 4 officers and a crew of 20 in a captured Union merchant ship to continue to destroy Union ships.

Read formulated a brazen plan to capture the **Caleb Cushing**. Three of his crew would stay on board the **Archer**, and sail it out of Portland Harbor the next morning to rendezvous with the captured **Caleb Cushing** at sea. The rest of Read's crew rowed dories with muffled oars to the **Caleb Cushing** after midnight, and were able to take command of the ship without an alarm being sounded. Sails were set, but there was no wind, so Read determined that the ship would have to be rowed out of the harbor!! After the moon set the towing started, made more difficult by the incoming tide. They cleared the harbor entrance and were headed north of Hog Island (which was north of Peak's Island) in an attempt to avoid being seen by the soldiers manning the 3 forts that guarded Portland harbor, Fort Preble on the peninsula, and Forts Scammell and Gorges on small harbor islands.

The **Forest City** now rounded Portland lighthouse, with its passenger, the new captain of the **Caleb Cushing**, on deck. He was stunned to see his new command being towed out of the harbor and asked the captain of the **Forest City** to drop him off on the **Caleb Cushing**. The captain of the **Forest City** refused; he was on a schedule. The **Forest City** docked at Franklin Wharf at 4 am, and the Caleb Cushing's crew was on the dock, questioning why their ship had disappeared. The church bells sounded an alarm, and residents and soldiers with guns raced to the wharves. The **Caleb Cushing** was still visible from the wharf area, and Jedediah Jewett, port collector and ranking Treasury official, now took command of the rescue mission. He was aided by Mayor Jacob McLellan, who had just arrived on the docks. Telegrams were sent to Boston and New York, and troops and guns were called up from the forts. The chase was on!!

The paddle steamers **Chesapeake**, **Forest City**, and **Casco**, manned with armed residents and soldiers, started in pursuit of the **Caleb Cushing**. Lt. Read knew there would be trouble when he saw passengers of the **Forest City** hailing the captured ship hours earlier, and he and the crew now gave up towing the vessel and boarded the Caleb Cushing. He searched the ship for ammunition for the cannon, but the **Cushing** crew effectively thwarted his efforts. All he found was some powder and 5 cannonballs. As the **Forest City** approached, Read fired 4 shots, then one shot at the **Chesapeake**. The **Chesapeake** fired a shot back. No one noticed the **Archer** quietly raise her sails, raise her anchor, and head out to sea.

Charles Read now knew that the odds were against him; there was not enough wind for him to get under way and the steamers were catching up to him. He called to his crew to set the ship on fire, then prepare to abandon ship. The crew piled bedding and broken furniture in the cabin area, and lit a match. Flames soon appeared through the hatchways. Boats were launched, and the captured crew of the **Caleb**

Cushing moved into the boats, and thrown the keys to their handcuffs. Read told his crew to also abandon the ship, and he handed out coins he had found in the ship cabins as they boarded the small boats. The Confederates tied white handkerchiefs to boat hooks, and waved them to attract the attention of the steamers.

The **Forest City** ordered the Confederates to board their ship one at a time, and the **Chesapeake** picked up the captured crew of the **Caleb Cushing**. Attention was now focused on putting out the fire on the **Caleb Cushing**, but flames had already reached the rigging, and the entire ship was ablaze. At 1:48 pm., the fire reached the 400 pounds of black powder in the magazine, and the ship exploded, sending masts and decking hundreds of feet into the air. The explosion was heard 20 miles away.

Lt. Read was captured wearing the uniform coat of the late Captain of the **Caleb Cushing**. Read was 5'1" and lanky; Captain Clark had weighed over 260 pounds. The **Forest City** learned of the role of the **Archer** in the raid, and raced to capture the mackerel schooner. As the **Forest City** entered Portland Harbor, church bells rang in celebration, but the mood of the mob was ugly; they wanted to hang the Confederates. It was determined that the city jail was not a secure site in lieu of the mob's behavior, so the Confederates were marched to Fort Preble at the tip of harbor, and confined there.

The Confederates were taken to Fort Warren in Boston Harbor, and held there until October 18, 1864, when they were part of a prisoner exchange.

From June 27th forward, residents of Portland and other seacoast communities watched the eastern horizon for any suspicious shipping activity in or near their harbors.

"Savvy" Read spent the next year in the James River squadron, and he was then assigned to take command of the **CSS Webb** in Shreveport, LA, and harass Federal shipping in the Pacific. He reached Shreveport on April 22, 1865, and headed for the Gulf of Mexico. He grounded the ship near New Orleans on April 23rd, and fired the ship to keep it out of Federal hands. He was captured and sent, again, to Fort Warren in Boston Harbor. He was released on July 24, 1865. Read earned the Confederate Medal of Honor, and died in Meridian, Mississippi, in 1890.

(Sue is the editor and program chair for the Joshua L. Chamberlain Civil War Round Table in Maine. Thank you for allowing me to reprint this in our newsletter.)

April Menu
Baked Ham with Raisin Sauce
Chicken with Bow Tie Pasta
Fresh Vegetables
Salad – Rolls
Dessert

Green Mountain Civil War Round Table
P.O. Box 1245
White River Jct., VT 05001



