MICHELLE ARNOSKY SHERBURNE
“MARK WHEELER OF THE
1ST VERMONT CAVALRY”
WITH
RT MEMBER LEW GAGE
SLIDES OF PRESENT DAY
ANDERSONVILLE
TUESDAY, DEC. 8, 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., Dec. 6, 2009. Cost per person for the buffet dinner is $16.00. 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 email her at auntis@comcast.net.

MENU
ASSORTED SANDWICHES
HOT DISH – DESSERT

(PLEASE NOTE: Our dinner meals, whether lunch or evening, will consist of sandwiches, salad/hot dish, and dessert. We will have one “dinner” meal next June which will be Gail’s Favorite: Hamburgers!

Michelle Arnosky Sherbune

In 2009, Michelle Arnosky Sherburne of Newbury, VT, came across a 1980 transcription photocopy of a manuscript written by Mark Wheeler, who had been a soldier in the 1st Vermont Cavalry. Wheeler wrote about his experiences, beginning with the Wilson-Kautz Raid in June 1864, through his prison time at four different Confederate prisons, including Andersonville Prison. The original of this document is held at the Peacham Historical Association. This 1980 transcription had been heavily edited, and Michelle volunteered to transcribe it with stricter guidelines. The Peacham Historical Association agreed, and since then they have looked into properly conserving this wonderful piece of history.

And how did Michelle get started on this adventure in the first place? While visiting our RT meeting back in January of 2009 and listening to Tom Ledoux talk about his website. She remembered she had “something” sitting in her history files at home that she had never actually read: the photocopy of Wheeler’s manuscript!

Come to our December meeting and hear all about this remarkable story and then watch as member Lew Gage shows slides of current day Andersonville Prison.

Happy Birthday to our President, Jack
And
Happy Holidays to All!
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: lewandginnie@emailmv.com

The deadline for the January 2010 newsletter is December 28, 2009.

2010 Program Schedule
Program Chair: Peter Sinclair

Jan. 16  (Saturday meeting)  
Ken Borie – Surgeon General Court Martial

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!

Feb. 13  (Saturday meeting)  
Kate Larson – “The Assassin’s Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln.”

March 13  (Saturday meeting)  
Mike Pride and Mark Travis – “Col. Cross and Gettysburg”

April 13  Jack Anderson – Overview of the Round Table’s May Trip


June 8  Benson Bobrick – “General Thomas”

Other Round Table Meetings and Happenings

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/

Dec. 4 – Capital District (Albany) CWRT – Ed Bearss – Civil War topic of his choosing! For more information check out their web site at: www.cdewrto.org

Dec. 10 – 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/suvwlebanonnh/classic_blue.html

Dec. 16 – NEKCWRT – Michelle Sherburne – Civil War Diary of Mark Wheeler. For more information, contact Joan Huguenin at PoohBahToo@hotmail.com or 802-754-6402.


2010 GMCWRT Battlefield Journey UPDATE!

April 29-May 4, 2010

Next year we will travel to Carlisle PA and visit the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center at the Carlisle Barracks and then head south to Lexington VA. Our good friend Barbara Watts will guide us through the Lexington area, including visits to VMI, the Lee Chapel, General Jackson’s home, New Market Battlefield and more. Our journey homeward will include an overnight in Gettysburg and a quick peek at the new Visitor’s Center and the restored landscape of the battlefield.

The total cost for the trip is still being calculated, but will include RT motor coach transportation from WrJct VT, five night’s lodging, most meals, driver gratuity, all admission fees, information packet, on board refreshments and more.

$75 per person deposit is required to hold your place; deposits are 50% refundable if you cancel, 100% refundable if the trip is cancelled.

Checks should be made payable to GMCWRT and mailed to: Gail Blake 55 Orizzonto Road WRJct VT 05001 Questions and more information call Gail at 802-296-2919 or email at auntis@comcast.net

Hope you will join us!

NOTES FROM OUR NOVEMBER MEETING

We had 28 or so folks attend our November meeting. Peter Sinclair started off with a brief synopsis of his recent trip to Kentucky and Illinois. If we’re lucky, he’ll write up something for a future newsletter!

Jack Anderson spoke about the 150th Civil War commemoration in the year 2011 and wondered if there would be a large commemoration each year of the anniversary of the Civil War! The Governor of Vermont has sanctioned a commission to do state wide planning for this event(s).

Jack also informed us that Civil War Preservation Trust needs our help. Our RT just donated $100.00 in memory of member C. Pete Jorgensen. Richard Brewster informed us that he has included CWPT in his will. Jack said he has as well. (We will
Peter reminded everyone that our December meeting will not only be a presentation by our speakers, but also a Show and Tell if anyone would like to bring along Civil War artifacts, etc., to share with our group. And don’t forget: January, February, and March meetings will be on SATURDAYS.

Ed Lilley gave a FANTASTIC power point presentation on the Battle for Mobile Bay. I’m sure we all learned something from his talk, such as: who is the only president who holds a patent?

Our raffle winners were Peter Sinclair, Alice Evans, Bob Coburn, Tony Gow, and, of course, Jeanette Cook.

“A Civil War Christmas – A Musical Celebration”

Here is another way to celebrate the holiday season with a play called "A Civil War Christmas-A Musical Celebration" by Paula Vogel from November 13-December 13, 2009. This musical play will show Abe & Mary Lincoln figuring out their Christmas gifts on Christmas Eve in 1864, along with a rebel soldier challenging a Union blacksmith’s mercy, and a fugitive from slavery searching for her daughter. They have discounts for groups of ten (10). For more information contact: aroberts@huntingtontheatre.bu.edu or go to www.huntingtontheatre.org <http://www.huntingtontheatre.org/>
over to the island. In the evening Newman’s Band enlivened the event by some of their best playing and choicest selection of music and an enthusiastic parade through our principal streets with a crowd cheering right heartily ‘or the Union and the candidate of the Union party. Thus every victory made a knell of death to all traitors – and cheers and emboldens every true friend and Upholder of the Union.

Private James Swartwood of the 4th U.S. Artillery, while firing the salute yesterday afternoon on the Island, had his right arm severely injured, and suffered lacerations about the chest, by the premature discharge of the gun. He was removed to the hospital.

He has been the hero of thirty-two battles, and was about to obtain his discharge by the expiration of his term of enlistment. He was from some part of our State, if we are rightly informed, but the town and county we did not learn. The gun probably became heated, or air entered by the vent-hole sufficient to cause a premature discharge.

(Thanks, George, for sharing your great-grandfather's story with us.)

If anyone has information on their ancestor’s Civil War experiences they’d like to share with members, please let me know.)

**Robert Nero Fulton**  
Private  
Co. H. – 2nd Vermont  
Brian Smith’s Great-Great Grandfather

**Heratio P. Fulton**  
Private  
Co. H – 9th Vermont  
Died of Diptheria Nov. 2, 1862  
in Chicago and is buried there  
Brian Smith’s Great-Great Grandfather

(My apologies to Brian for forgetting to include his ancestors in last months memorial issue.)

**Round Table Videos**

We have the following new DVD’s available at our monthly meetings:

52. Biography – Stonewall Jackson
54. A. GMCWRT 12/08 – Show and Tell, Cassette
55. B. GMCWRT 12/08 – Show and Tell, DVD
56. Ulysses S. Grant – Warrior-President
57. Mustered “Foot Soldier of the 12th”

Thanks to Alan Cheever for keeping track of these and bringing them to our meetings. DVD’s are available on loan to our RT members for free each month. Check them out!

**Corporal Lafayette Hunting**  
49th New York Volunteers  
By: Richard E. Clem

(Continued from the November issue)

In spring 1864, President Lincoln called for Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to take control of all Union armies. Hopefully, the new commander with a major campaign advancing south would force Richmond to its knees and bring an end to the war. Grant’s one big problem: Gen. Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia would make a stubborn stand in his path to the Confederate’s capital, contesting every inch of ground at places called the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor.

With a battle cry “On to Richmond,” the Army of the Potomac pushed deeper into the core of the Old Dominion. At a hamlet called Spotsylvania Court House, Lee constructed strong log and earth breastworks to slow down Grant’s determined thrust. On May 12th, on what some referred to as the “killing ground,” the 49th NY lost 52 members killed or mortally wounded, its greatest number of casualties for a single battle during the entire war. A Federal soldier who witnessed the brutal engagement remembered: “Skulls were crushed with clubbed muskets and men stabbed to death with swords and bayonets thrust between the logs in the parapet which separated the combatants.”

Although a steady rain began, the deadly ordeal continued under what some historians consider “a volume of fire unprecedented in the history of warfare.” That night as both sides tried to catch their breath from fighting, several oak trees more than a foot in diameter, fell into the breastworks – being shot off by musket fire. In 1902, survivors of the 49th New York Infantry placed and dedicated a monument on this sacred soil that has become known as the “Bloody Angle.” One side of the granite structure contains a list honoring those departed comrades who perished here including the name . . . Corporal Lafayette Hunting.

According to military records, after two weeks the critical wounded Cpl. Hunting was transferred from the muddy field to a hospital in Alexandria, Virginia. In all probability, the 28-year-old corporal never gained consciousness. Hospital records describe the fatal wound as “hit in right shoulder by minie ball – lodge next to spine.”

An army surgeon unsuccessfully attempted to remove the bullet and noted: “When admitted patient was suffering from pneumonia. An incision was made along the track of the wound – many pieces of bone and dead tissue removed – patient died June 3, 1864.”

When news of Lafayette’s death reached New York, his brother, Asa, boarded a train for Virginia to bring the body home. Once reaching Alexandria, the older brother signed for the remains and on rails of steel, began the sad journey north. Returning to Pembroke, the body was buried in the Brick House Cemetery next to a 21-year-old sister,
Lydia, who had passed away in 1853. Before the war ended, the Hunting family moved to Evanston, Illinois. Normally this is where the Hunting saga would end; every piece of available material on the soldier from the Empire State had been compiled. However, one question kept surfacing: Was it possible that a picture or an image of Cpl. Hunting existed? If so – where? Federal documents disclose the effects found in the New York soldier’s knapsack at the time of death: “one silver watch - $95.80 Government money – one pocket knife – memorandum book containing letters and photographs.” Undoubtedly, one of those photos was of his mother as mentioned in the letter, and one was of Cpl. Hunting himself. It was my guess any soldier proud enough of his military service to have purchased an ID tag, would have had pictures taken of himself.

Also found on the body was a “small silver chain.” I’ll always wonder if this was the very same chain that once held the ID tag, considering the small hole found on its edge. Some things are known only to God.

At first, searching for Lafayette’s photo seemed like “searching for a needle in a haystack.” At least the needle does exist somewhere in the haystack, but in this case an image of Hunting may never existed. On April 17, 1985, five years after digging up the ID tag, I received a phone call from Gaphry Duff of Fallbroke, California. With an excited voice she explained: “Lafayette Hunting was my great-great-great uncle and we have a Civil War photograph of him!” The needle had just found me. Doing Hunting family research, Mrs. Duff had been in contact with Lois Brockway, historian of Corfu/Pembroke, New York, who gave her my phone number. Contact had been made with Lois Brockway by the author after an ad was placed in a Buffalo newspaper searching for: “... any information on Corp. Lafayette Hunting – 49th New York Vols.” Lois had found Lafayette’s grave and shared with me extensive material on the Hunting family. Mrs. Duff then said her cousin, Ione Goode, living in Eugene, Oregon, had possession of the Hunting photo. When I called Mrs. Goode that evening she mentioned having two sons in the US Marine Corps, but neither had an interest in the Civil War and she wanted to give me Lafayette’s picture.

Several weeks later I received by register mail from Eugene, Oregon the “original” tintype photo of Lafayette. The same package contained another gift Mrs. Goode wanted me to have – one I’ll cherish forever. Almost lost down in the corner of the heavy, brown envelope, was a small New Testament slightly larger that a postage stamp. A note in the package explained that when Alva Hunting died in Baltimore, he was carrying this very same Bible. Somehow, the tiny book had been returned to New York and stayed in the family over 123 years. The little heirloom made its way from Baltimore, MD, to Pembroke, NY, to Evanston, Ill, to Eugene, OR and finally back to Maryland. Inside the back cover a member of the family had handwritten: “Alva H. Hunting – Cherry Valley, New York – Died in Baltimore.” An 1860 census indicates Alva was living and working on a farm in Cherry Valley, NY at the time of enlistment.

During the quest to bring the nineteenth century warrior to life, I journeyed to New York. There on a beautiful June morning while kneeling over Lafayette’s grave in the Brick House Cemetery, I experienced a strange feeling of personal loss and grief. It was hard to accept reality that the man I had come to know was gone. Just below the surface was a soldier who had fought, suffered and died in the War Between the States for a cause he considered worthy of the supreme sacrifice. Perhaps now, the Ruler of All Battles will grant peace unto his soul until the day when all swords are broken, all artillery dismantled and they shall speak of war no more.

(Thanks so much to Richard for allowing me to share his wonderful story.)

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Program Chair Needed!

Peter Sinclair, our current Program Chair, wishes to give up this job. The program is already in place until November of 2010, and Peter is willing to work with the new Chair until summer 2011. Please consider whether you would like to try the job and let Peter, Ginny, Gail, or Jack know.
Dedication of Vermont monument at Dam #1, Newport News, Virginia, October 10, 2009. Photo by Alice Evans.

PLEASE NOTE!!!

DUE TO A SCHEDULING CONFLICT, OUR JANUARY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2010.

Green Mountain Civil War Round Table
P.O. Box 1245
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