“SHOW AND TELL”
MEMBERS PRESENTATIONS
SATURDAY, DEC. 10, 2011
HOTEL COOLIDGE
WHITE RIVER JCT., VT

1:00 P.M. Social Hour
1:30 Buffet Lunch
2:00-2:15 Business Meeting
2:30 Program, followed by discussion
Adjournment

Guaranteed dinner reservations MUST BE MADE by 12 Noon, Dec. 9. **Cost per person for the buffet dinner is $15.00.** 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.

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<th>MENU</th>
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<td>ASSORTED SANDWICHES</td>
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<td>HOT DISH - SOUP</td>
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<td>TOSSSED SALAD</td>
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<td>COFFEE/TEA</td>
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<td>COOKIES</td>
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Members’ Presentations

Whitney Maxfield: Slide presentation in uniform of his ancestor, James Bacon, Sgt., his service and where he started out in Williamstown, VT and ended up in Barre, VT.

Alice Evans: Battle of Franklin, TN (part of the Campaign for Nashville, 1864) with an emphasis on the aftermath: hurried burials of Confederates, later removal of hundreds to land donated by a Franklin family (MCGavocks) and Carrie McGavock’s subsequent lifetime devoted to connecting burial sites to family members.

John Mudge: “O. Jennings Wise – Who Was This Uncle?”

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING WILL START WITH OUR “SOCIAL” HOUR AT 1 P.M., NOT 12 NOON!!!

New Member

Welcome to our newest member, Dr. William Minsinger from South Royalton, VT. If you see someone “new” at our December meeting, please introduce yourself!

**About three hundred seventy thousand handguns were purchased by the Union during the Civil War. Colt and Remington .44-caliber and .36-caliber six-shooters were the most reliable and favored.**
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: lewandginny1863@comcast.net

The deadline for the January newsletter is Dec. 30, 2011.

2012 Program Schedule

Peter Sinclair, Program Chair

2012

January 14: Rob Sullivan – “Fort Fisher – the last Confederate Fort that protected Wilmington, NC” – (Sat. afternoon)

February 11: Michelle Arnosky Sherburne (Sat. afternoon – 1 p.m.) – “The Underground Railroad”

March 10: Tom Ledoux – “Navy” – (Tom is the webmaster for the Vermont in the Civil War web site and is moving to our area soon.) (Sat. afternoon)

April 14: Robert May – “The Lemon Slave Law – 1859” – (Similar to the Dred Scott case, but with a different outcome.) (Sat. afternoon – 1 p.m.)

May 8: Robert Bonner – Subject to be decided. Either Pre-Civil War History or Confederate Vice President Alexander Stevens – (Tues. evening)

June 12: Open (Tues. evening)

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. 8. – 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


Dec. 14 – NEKCWRT – Bart Barnett to speak on a Revolutionary War Soldier. For information contact Joan Huguenin at PoohBahToe@Hotmail.com

January 4, 2012 – An Evening with Ken Burns. Acclaimed documentary filmmaker Ken Burns discusses past, present, and future projects in a continuing effort to better understand who we are as Americans by examining our collective past. A First Wednesdays lecture. Hosted by the Brooks Memorial Library. Brattleboro, Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St, 7:00 pm. Jerry Carbone, (802) 254-5290 x101.

If you know of any Civil War event coming up, please let me know. If there isn’t time to put it in the newsletter, I would be happy to e-mail it to those members on my e-mail list.

Minutes from Our November Meeting

At our last Tuesday evening meeting until next May, we had about 36 people attend. Dave Curtin chaired the meeting.

Gail Blake gave us an update on Jeanette Cook’s health. She’s doing better, and hopefully will be back home soon. A Get Well card was passed around for members to sign.

Gail is looking for a volunteer to take over her duties at the front desk for December as she won’t be able to attend and neither will your newsletter editor. Please contact Gail if you are able to help out. She will leave the box of “goodies” at the front desk of the Hotel, and would ask that whoever is in charge of the meeting, to leave the “goodies” there at the end of the meeting, and she will pick them up.

Joan Tomasi said she noticed Vicksburg on the new quarter. Shears ago when he visited his grandfather. He would play with his great-grandfather’s Civil War things. He wrote a book entitled “A Brief History
of My Great-Grandfather.” He has about 400 Civil War books in his library.

The historical society where he lives in Lisbon, New Hampshire, had nothing on the Civil War. One of their members had her great-grandfather’s diary. Private Dodge was in Co. C, was 29 years old when he joined, a farmer. He kept a diary from January 1, 1863 to July 31, 1863, when the regiment mustered out. His brother, Isaac Dodge, was with the 13th New Hampshire. Dr. Nyberg borrowed this diary and transcribed it. Dodge died in 1921 at the age of 88.

Dr. Nyberg brought along some Civil War artifacts, some of which had belonged to his great-grandfather. There was an undershirt, blanket, a canteen, a pistol, pipe, and a beautiful pocket watch which Nyberg still uses. There was also a Springfield musket he saved from being thrown in the dump, and a trunk he bought which supposedly belonged to Mrs. Franklin Pierce.

Raffle winners were John Mudge, Laura Ward who won twice, Pat Wheatley, Dave Mayhew, and our newest member, Dr. Minsinger.

**Tom Ledoux Comments**

(Editor’s note: I received the following message from Tom Ledoux after he posted the October newsletter in reference to our October speaker’s program on the G.A.R.)

"Have a comment on "The last Vermont veteran to die was in September 1944 at the age of 97 and was Gilbert Lucier from Jay, Vt., with the 11th Vt. Infantry."

He was the last CW soldier to die in Vermont, however, not the last Vermont veteran to die. The following died after him:

Henry A. Horton, Co. A, 2nd Vt., age 101, died on 7/1/1948, Troy, NY

Francis M. Atherton, a recruit, age 100, on 12/28/1946, in Springfield, Mass.

Reuben S. Hurd, Co. A, 10th Vt, age 101, died on 10/22/1946, in Worthington, MN

George A. Coburn, Co. F, 9th Vt., age 100, died on 4/1/1946, in Minturn, CO

Russell C. Martin, Co. I, 1st Vt. Cav, age 96, died on 12/29/1945, in Los Angeles, CA

And, while technically not a veteran, Harriett H. Holmes, nurse in 11th Vt., age 102, died on 8/5/1945, in Northfield."

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**2012 GMCWRT JOURNEY**

**May 10-14, 2012**

Join us as we travel to the battlefields of Harpers Ferry, South Mountain, and Antietam. Our guide will be T. Jeff Driscoll, former Director of Education at the Civil War Trust and current member of the Antietam Battlefield Guide Association. Final trip cost has not yet been determined but will include RT luxury motorcoach transportation from WRJct, most meals, all guide and admission fees, 4 nights lodging at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Hagerstown MD, driver gratuity, information packet, and refreshments. A $75 per person deposit is required. Deposit is 50% refundable if you cancel, 100% refundable if the trip is cancelled. Deadline to sign up is April 19th.

All are welcome! Questions? auntis@comcast.net or 802-296-2919. Stay tuned for more details!

**Civil War “Dog Tags”**

Dr. Leonard J. Nyberg, Jr.

Camp No. 7 - SUVCW

Unlike WWI, WWII and wars thereafter, government issued identification tags were virtually unknown during the Civil War. Many soldiers were fearful that should they be killed in battle, no-one would be able to identify them, so their fate would be unknown to their relatives or loved ones back home. In many cases, soldiers would simply write their name and address on a slip of paper and pin it to the inside of their uniform jacket. This gave sutlers, civilian merchants who typically followed the regiments from place to place, the idea of manufacturing and selling permanent identification tags.

These tags came in various styles, sizes and shapes – some were made from silver coins and others were made of brass with various emblems, pictures or slogans on the front side and the soldier’s name, regiment and home stamped on the other. Some of the front sides included pictures of President Lincoln, the Union Shield, or slogans such as “War of 1861” or War Against Rebellion.” There typically was a hole drilled in the top for a lanyard, string, chain or other device for wearing the tag.

In today’s market, Civil War “dog tags” are not frequently found, but when made available sell anywhere from $300 to $800 or more, depending upon the quality and importance. I have two sets of “dog tags” in my personal collection:
This tag was sold to John L. Hubbard – Company “H” 15th New Hampshire Volunteers. He was from Walpole, NH and fought in the Siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana, in 1863.

The tag below was stamped from a quarter and sold to John P. Overton, Company “B” 23rd Virginia Infantry, a Confederate Unit. He was captured at Gettysburg and confined at Fort McHenry, MD – he was later transferred to Fort Delaware, DE and then evidently had a change of heart and joined the 3rd Maryland Cavalry (US).

(Editor's note: The above was sent by our November speaker. Thanks, Joel, for the great article!)

Caledonian
December 6, 1861

The Sickness in the Vermont Regiments.

[All the accounts from the Vt brigade agree mainly in the

statement that the last three regiments sent from this state are now very sickly. We give below extracts from letters to different newspapers, which are corroborated by private letters to this office.—The first extract that follows is taken from Waltons Daily of Nov. 27, and is undoubtedly from the pen of Hon. Joseph Poland:]

"I am sorry to be compelled to say that the fourth and fifth are suffering fearfully from sickness. More than two hundred and fifty in each are sick, and the deaths are nearly one a day in each regiment. The fourth have had some twelve deaths, and the fifth sixteen. Measles and typhoid fever are the prevailing diseases. The universal opinion here is, that this terrible plague fell upon these regiments as the legitimate consequence of exposure upon first coming into camp from want of overcoats and sufficient clothing; and the universal phrase is, that the State of Vermont may never suffer that great folly—not to call it by any hard name—to be repeated. And may I not now say this, without incurring the taunt that I am electioneering for or against some candidate for office."

The Burlington Times of a few days since had the following: "Rev. Volney M. Simons, Chaplain of the 5th regiment, arrived here last evening, having left Camp Griffin on Sunday morning last. He reports great sickness in the 4th and 5th regiments; some 250 being reported daily as unfit for duty. He also states that members of the 6th regiment were coming down sick at the rate of 40 a day. Up to Saturday last, 17 deaths had occurred in the 5th regiment. He thinks the statement in the Tribune of Saturday last, in relation to the great proportion of sick in the Vermont regiments as compared with those from other States, to be in no wise exaggerated. The sickness in our regiments has been super induced he believes, by the want of proper clothing; our boys having done a large amount of picket duty in the worst of weather without overcoats. When Mr. S. left, Col. Smalley had not rejoined his regiment, but Lieut. Col. Grant and Major Proctor had worked well for the interests of the regiment, and have done an immense amount of hard work."

The army correspondent of the Free Press, under date of Camp Griffin, Nov. 23, says: "You will see by the papers that the Vermont troops are the most unhealthy in the whole army. Deaths among them are frequent. Three died in the 6th last night.—I have been told that some fifteen of the 5th have also died, and we have lost eight or ten. Some of the bodies have been sent home, others interred here. There is quite a graveyard of them already. You may be surprised at the statement, but there are over a thousand sick in the Vermont Brigade.—What the cause of so much sickness is I cannot tell. Other regiments are quite healthy."

Vermont Phoenix
December 12, 1861

The Cavalry Regiment.

There is at last a prospect that the Cavalry Regiment will leave the State. Positive orders have been given by Adjutant General Thomas of the United States Army, for them to
move at the earliest practicable day, and the Governor has issued an order fixing the morning of Saturday next, the 14th inst., as the time for starting. The Regiment will go to New York via Rutland, Troy and the Hudson River Railroad, and one hundred and forty cars will be required for their transportation. Col. Baxter, of the Governor’s staff, went to New York on Monday where he has been and now is engaged in making the necessary arrangements for their wants while there. We understand that the Vermonters resident in New York, are preparing for them a warm reception. The Regiment when at New York will be ordered probably either to Harrisburg, Washington or Annapolis where they will remain for some time under instruction.

At the request of the officers, and of the citizens of Burlington, the Governor has consented to formally present the Regiment with their colors this (Thursday) afternoon at three o’clock. The occasion will be one of rare interest and a large number of prominent citizens in that part of the State will be in attendance.

Vermont Phoenix
December 26, 1861

A Bloody Relic.—Private John Wheeler of Co. F, 4th Vermont Volunteers, has sent to one of his friends in this village a piece of a newspaper stained with the heart’s blood of the first deserter and traitor shot by order of our military officers. This “memorial” is posted in Lilley’s saloon.

(I asked Tom Ledoux for help in identifying this soldier who had been executed. He discovered it was William Johnson who was in General Franklin’s Division, Army of the Potomac. http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/civil-war/1861/december execution deserter.htm  Thanks, Tom, for your help.)

Caledonian
December 27, 1861

Departure of the Cavalry Regiment.

The First Vermont Volunteer Cavalry, Col. L. B. Platt, left for the seat of war, this morning. The tents were struck at 4 o’clock this morning, and at seven the first squadron, companies A and B, marched to the Rutland Depot. The departure was by squadrons, each company filling fourteen cars—and two companies forming a train.—Eight horses were placed in each freight car, four at each end of the car, facing each other, and kept in their places by bars passing across the cars, leaving a space in the centre for the men, saddles, accoutrements and forage. Four men went in each car with the horses, the remainder of each company occupying passenger cars at the rear of each train—the intention being to have them relieve their comrades at intervals, in the care of the animals. The tents, and camp equipage were loaded in the trains with their respective companies, each train being thus complete in itself, and every provision made for the careful transport and comfort of both men and horses. The embarkation proceeded regularly and in perfect order at the rate of a train an hour, the last train leaving at half past twelve o’clock. This last train carried also Col. Platt and his staff. The Regiment filled one hundred and forty-three cars, in five trains. The Regiment will reach New York, in the course of tomorrow, and will have a formal reception by the Vermonter in New York on Monday.

Research Help

Hi Everyone,

I have a research question for a new book I’m starting that involves every state - Union and Confederate. I’d like to place it before the membership of every RT I can contact. I know I can pick through every CWRT website but I wondered if anyone already had a directory of email addresses.

My third book, Home Of The Brave, will be out late-winter or early-spring.

My new one will be called No Ordinary Soldier and the premise is to write a short story about a relatively obscure soldier who had an interesting career. Every state will be represented by one soldier (only). I thought it would be fun for the CWRTs to debate among themselves who their soldier should be and, I admit, will help with the research.

I hope all of you are doing well and hope to see you soon.

Your friend, Les Rolston

(Editor’s note: Hopefully this will be brought up at our December meeting, so bring some ideas with you!)

Treasurer’s Reports

October and November

October 2011:
Starting balance: $2,847.15
Expenses:
Speaker: $105.00
Newsletter and stamps: $29.25
Dinner: $381.00
Deposit: $500.00 dues, raffle, dinner
Ending balance: $2,831.90

November 2011:
Starting balance: $2831.90
Speaker: $57.00
Newsletter and stamps: $37.00
CWT donation in honor of Jeannette/Slaughter Pen at Fredericksburg: $385.00
Dinner: $308.00
Deposit: $422.00 raffle, dues, dinner
Ending Balance: $2466.90

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Dear Ginny,

The following is for publication in the Camp Griffin Gazette. On Nov. 8, 2011 the William Scott Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War received permission from the Barre City Council to erect four granite panels in the City Park with names of all men who enlisted from Barre City and Barre Town in the Civil War, sand blasted into these 4’ high panels. This memorial will stand near the granite watering trough at the southeast point of the park. 

This will be Barre’s memorial to the Civil War, for it now has none. The cost is estimated at about $10,000 even at wholesale prices. No funds will be solicited from the taxpayers. The William Scott Camp will be responsible for raising the funds for this memorial. To that end we are asking all who are interested in preserving the memory of those who enlisted to save the nation 150 years ago, to forward their donations to Mr. Daniel Whitcher at P.O. Box 314, East Barre, VT 05649-0314, the camp treasurer.

We choose this place, method, and time because a memorial in this place would be clearly seen by all residents and tourists, because it would seem to be the least expensive option for honoring these individuals for their service to the nation, because the City of Barre is now involved in a restoration of the Youth Triumphant Memorial in the park, and because of the continuing Civil War sesquicentennial.

We hope you see the appropriateness of this project and can support it with a donation. Thank you.

Whitney Maxfield, Camp Commander
William Scott Camp, SUVCW

Green Mountain Civil War Round Table
P.O. Box 982
White River Jct., VT 05001

Green Mountain Civil War Round Table
March 2011—March 2012 Membership Rates

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<td>Single (includes newsletter)</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student (includes newsletter)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Person (includes newsletter)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletter alone – ten issues</td>
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Is this a new membership ____ renewal ____

Dues are payable to: GMCWRT, P.O. Box 982, White River Junction, VT 05001

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!