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# The Camp Griffin Gazette

News and Information from the Green Mountain Civil War Round Table

Vol. XVII, No. 2 – February 2009

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## “9<sup>th</sup> VERMONT INFANTRY”

PAUL G. ZELLER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2009

THE BLACK ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

ROUTE 4

QUECHEE, VERMONT

12:00 - 12:30 Social Hour  
12:30 – 1:00 Buffet Luncheon  
1:00 Business Meeting  
1:15 Program, followed by discussion  
3:00 Adjournment

Guaranteed luncheon reservations MUST BE MADE by 7 p.m., February 12, 2009. **Cost per person for the buffet luncheon is \$15.00.** 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](mailto:auntis@comcast.net).

**February Menu**  
**Assorted Sandwiches**  
**Soups – Salad - Dessert**

## Paul G. Zeller

Paul G. Zeller was born in Charleston, West Virginia. He graduated from West Virginia State College in 1968 and served as a platoon leader in an Army Transportation Boat Company in Viet Nam 1969-1970. He earned his Masters Degree in Education from the College of William and Mary in 1976. He retired in 2006 as the Chief of Training Development for the U. S. Army Transportation Corps. He is also a retired U. S. Army Reserve colonel. He and his wife, Sally, moved from Yorktown, Va., to Williamstown, Vt., in June 2007. He is the author *The Second Vermont Volunteer Infantry regiment, 1861-1865* (2002) and *The Ninth Vermont Infantry: A History and Roster* (2009). He has also written a number of articles on Vermont in the Civil War. He is currently working on the history of the 3rd Vermont Light Artillery.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:lewandginny@emailmv.com)

The deadline for the March 2009 newsletter is March 1, 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

**March 14** Eric Dean, author of "Shook Over Hell," a book about PTSD in the Civil War.

**APRIL BEGINS OUR TUESDAY  
EVENING MEETINGS!!!**

**April 14** Steve Gasiorovski of the 12<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Serenade Band

**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

**Feb. 7 – 7 p.m.** "A Visit with Abraham Lincoln at the Vershire, VT, Library and Historical Society. For more information: 802-685-3151.

**February 8 – Lincoln Bicentennial Birthday Brunch, 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the historic Concord's Colonial Inn, 48 Monument Square, Concord, MA.** Featured speaker will be **William F. Hanna, author of "Abraham Among the Yankees – Abraham Lincoln's 1848 Visit to Massachusetts."** (Mr. Hanna will have copies of his book available for purchase and signing.) This event is sponsored by The Department of Massachusetts Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in association with the Massachusetts Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and must be purchased no later than February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Seating is limited. Please send a check or money order payable to **Department of Massachusetts**, to: Kevin Tucker, Dept. of Mass. S.U.V.C.W., 58 Forest Street, Wakefield, MA 01880. Any questions, please contact him at (617) 678-6003 or by email at: [civilwarmemorials@verizon.net](mailto:civilwarmemorials@verizon.net).

**Feb. 13 – CDCWRT** – Meeting to be held at the Guilderland Public Library. For more information, check out their web site: [www.cdcwrt.org](http://www.cdcwrt.org)

**Feb. 19 – Joshua L. Chamberlain Civil War Round Table – Jerry Wiles' presentation on Abraham Lincoln.** Meetings at the Curtis (Brunswick, ME) Memorial Library, 7 p.m. For more information contact Sue Bailey at [sebailey273@wmconnect.com](mailto:sebailey273@wmconnect.com)

**Feb. 13 – NHCWRT – Michael Schroeder, will speak on "Codes & Ciphers of the Civil War."** Please check out their web site for more information: [www.cwrt-nh.org/](http://www.cwrt-nh.org/)

**Feb. 15 – Woodstock Historical Society, Woodstock, VT – 2:00 p.m. – "Lincoln's Legacy" with Jack Anderson, Civil War historian and director of the Woodstock Historical Society, who will explain Lincoln's role as Commander-in-Chief and his impact on military history.**

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**Feb. 16 – "Stealing Lincoln's Body" by Thomas Craughwell – A 2-hour special program at 9 p.m on the History Channel.**

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**Feb. 25 – Farmers' Night at the State House**

**Sponsor: Denis, Ricker & Brown  
Linda Radtke Performing Civil War Songs**

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7:30 pm -8:30 pm, Vermont State House, State Street, Montpelier, VT

This performance is part of the popular Farmers' Night series at the State House. This year, the Society will present Linda Radtke, performing her Civil War songbook. Linda searched the Vermont Historical Society archives to find songs from the Civil War era, and after she performed these songs for the first time at the 2008 History Expo, people have brought her even more songs. We're thrilled to be able to bring Linda to Farmers' Night at the State House. Linda will be accompanied on the piano by John Lincoln (very distant relative!). We also chose this program to honor the Lincoln Bicentennial. All are welcome, the performance is free. For more info, contact [yhs-info@state.vt.us](mailto:yhs-info@state.vt.us) or call 802.479.8500.

**Feb. 26 –Hildene, Manchester, VT - Winter History Series Part Two: Craig Symonds on "Lincoln as Commander in Chief".** The Museum Store will be open for a cup of coffee and a snack. Free, 7:00 pm in the Welcome Center Beckwith Room.

For more information on the above events at Hildene and to check to be sure the events are still scheduled, please visit their web site: [www.hildene.org](http://www.hildene.org), call 802-362-1788 or e-mail at [info@hildene.org](mailto:info@hildene.org)

**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](mailto:civilproctor@comcast.net)**

Check out The Ripley Camp #4 web site at: [www.ripleycamp.netfirms.com/](http://www.ripleycamp.netfirms.com/)

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**Major McKinley Camp # 9  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
By Gary Ward**

Major McKinley Camp #9 was chartered in 1901 and re-chartered in 2008. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Soldiers Memorial Building, North Park Street, Lebanon, NH. Camp Members, Junior Members, SUVCW Auxiliary Members, and guests are welcome! It is a patriotic organization that is interested in honoring all Veterans, more particularly the memory of Union Veterans of the Civil War. We strive to preserve battlefields, artifacts, and history from the Civil War era. In addition to monthly programs we have done Headstone Rededication Ceremonies and replaced missing Veterans' Grave Markers. We have looked up Civil War Veteran's records for families (such as our resources will allow). We have helped cook and serve at the Annual Veterans Day Breakfast at the Lebanon American Legion. We have also acted as docents for school groups and open houses at the Soldiers Memorial Building. All of our members have Civil War heritage except one. See [www.SUVCW.org](http://www.SUVCW.org) for information about the categories of membership. However,

you do not have to have Civil War heritage to join. For our schedule of events please see [http://www.geocities.com/suvcwlebanonnh/classic\\_blue.html](http://www.geocities.com/suvcwlebanonnh/classic_blue.html)

### **Lincoln Bicentennial**

To check out activities honoring the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of our 16<sup>th</sup> President, check out the website for the Bicentennial at: [www.abrahamlincoln200.org](http://www.abrahamlincoln200.org)  
Or: [www.lincolnbicentennial.gov](http://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](mailto:mccardel@middlebury.edu)

President Lincoln's Cottage, Upshur Street at Rock Creek Church Road, NW, Washington, District of Columbia 20011  
[www.presidentlincoln.org](http://www.presidentlincoln.org)

### **Lincoln at Peoria - The Turning Point – Getting Right with the Declaration of Independence**

Copyright (C) 2008 by Lewis E. Lehrman

Published by: Stackpole Books  
ISBN-13: 978-0-8117-0361-1(hardcover)  
ISBN-10: 0-8117-0361-4 (hardcover)

412 pages (including notes, bibliography, and index)

The book stores are being inundated with books about Abraham Lincoln to coincide with the 200th anniversary of his birth in 2009 - the book reviews in the current issue of Civil War News all have to do with this topic for example. Fortunately, this reviewer just happened upon a very good book on his first stab into the new pile of writings.

Lehrman's purpose is rather interesting: provide the background for Lincoln's speech at Peoria, Illinois; discuss the speech itself; and then go over the broad ramifications of the speech as well. It is a fascinating look at how one of America's greatest politicians viewed one of the most important issues that helped to bring on our Civil War, and well worth the time to look at in depth.

To most people, the Kansas-Nebraska act is just one of those pieces of legalistic mumbo-jumbo that the Congress fought over leading up to the Civil War. Our typical High School History teachers talk about it in a very impersonal manner: just some words fought over by a bunch of dead politicians (and some ruffians in those states). For Lincoln and Stephen Douglas (and numerous others north and south) it was in many respects a matter of political life and death. It was a moral and ethical gaging stick, and while Douglas was pushing its acceptance, Lincoln came out of pseudo-political retirement to paint what he believed was

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the true picture concerning the evils inherent in the legislation.

It is rather hard in our ridiculously short attention span era to imagine (large) crowds of people listening to the two men talk for hours about one topic, but that is exactly what happened. Douglas scheduled a series of speeches in support of Kansas-Nebraska throughout Illinois during the tumultuous year of 1854, and Lincoln doggedly followed him from town-to-town, replying and trying to repudiate Douglas' stand. Douglas would stand up and talk for upwards of 3 hours, then - sometimes after a short respite for dinner - Lincoln would stand forth and let loose his rebuttal for another 2 to 3 hours. Then they'd pack up, and go at it again somewhere else. This was very much a predator/prey type of relationship: both sides would refine arguments and rebut rebuttals provided by the other speaker in each subsequent speech.

The author chooses the Peoria version of the speech as Lincoln provided the actual words for this speech - Lerhman states: "Lincoln made sure the text from Peoria endured." The basic ideas and arguments were set forth in numerous speeches beforehand, but the two sets of speeches at Springfield (12 days earlier) and Peoria were probably what Lincoln felt were the culmination of the debate. (Note: the speech discussed in this book occurred in 1854 - the more famous "Lincoln/Douglas Debates" took place when the two fought for the Senate seat in 1858.)

The book itself provides back ground material on Lincoln, Douglas, the Kansas-Nebraska act, and the nature of speeches and debates of that era. He then moves on to reporting the details of the Peoria speech, following it up with deep dives into the arguments contained within the speech - breaking apart each important point Lincoln brought up. Next Lehrman talks about how Lincoln then went on in his later career to implement the ideas expressed at Peoria in his presidency. Then he provides the complete text of the speech as an appendix - it is a very powerful experience to read the speech in its entirety.

We all know the "aw shucks", humorous story-telling Lincoln, and we have also been moved by the poetic beauty his later writings showed, but we're not often given a glimpse into the deep research Lincoln would use to come to his conclusions. Clearly the arguments he put forth in the Peoria speech required tremendous amounts of serious investigation into census figures, previous historical documents and legislation. The ability to read the words that Lincoln spoke is also quite moving in and of itself: he was a powerful speaker, and you can almost feel yourself drifting back in time and imagining being there.

This is a fabulous book. The author writes very well, organized his material wonderfully, and certainly accomplished what he set out to do (at least in this reviewers' mind). Very highly recommended! (Thanks again to Alan Brunelle from the NHCWRT for sharing this review he wrote with us.)

**Do you know someone who might be interested in our Round Table? We'd be happy to e-mail or regular mail two issues of our newsletter. Just let Ginny Gage know their e-mail or regular mail address(s) and she'll send them along.**

### **Lincoln & Darwin - The Emancipators' Legacies**

These two great men were born on the same day, in the same year: Sunday, February 12, 1809. But Darwin shares more with Lincoln than the same birthday. Lincoln freed American slaves from physical servitude while Darwin freed the human mind from the bonds of supernatural dogma. The positive influences of their legacies are as relevant in the world today as they were in the 1800s.

Both held unpopular views and both gave to the world documents of enduring value. Lincoln provided the Emancipation Proclamation, which destroyed the institution of slavery in the United States. Darwin provided The Origin of Species, a work that liberated humans from a once universal fatalism. Darwin's intent was to seek the laws governing the origin of species. He was motivated to do so by his doubts. In his five-year voyage around the world, from 1831-1836 on the HMS Beagle, he encountered contradictions to the beliefs which he, as a fledgling minister in the Church of England, had anticipated as correct. His initial assumptions were shaped by William Paley's Natural Theology. Paley assumed all creatures were created by God as described in the Book of Genesis; that God's design was seen throughout nature - and that nature was a harmonious whole, designed not only for human happiness, but for all living things. In this fated world, God called the tunes and set forth life's expectations. Darwin had no reason to doubt that species were fixed in their characteristics and that his role as a naturalist was to describe them, catalogue them, name them, and reveal, as best he could, God's handiwork seen through an inferred bible of nature.

(Contributed by Peter Sinclair.)

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

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. 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. More information will be in our March newsletter.

**Welcome New Members  
Gary and Laura Ward  
From Plainfield, NH**

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*On behalf of my family, I want to thank you for the wonderful basket of fruits and cheeses you sent us during this sad time for our family. My mother died on Wednesday, and while she said she was ready to leave this world, we were not ready for her to go. Your caring and friendship are appreciated more than you can know.*

*Mary Davis and family*

## **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](mailto:auntis@comcast.net) or by phone at 802-296-2919

## **Ponzi Scheme and President Grant**

Did you realize there was a connection between a Ponzi scheme and former Union General and President Ulysses S. Grant? After serving as president, Grant moved to New York in 1881 and together with Ferdinand Ward, formed a brokerage firm named Grant and Ward. Evidently our illustrious general wasn't much of a business man. His partner took advantage of his name and influence, took money from investments and speculated with it. He kept

the money flowing by paying large dividends out of the money new investors put in.

Of course, this worked for a while. Ward wasn't very competent either in money matters, and ended up spending 10 years in prison for grand larceny. By June, 1884, Grant had only about \$200 in cash to his name. Amazingly, when people found out about this, they began sending him checks. One man added a note, "On account of my share for services ending in April, 1865."

In order to provide for his family, Grant decided to write his memoirs. Mark Twain's publishing firm gave him an advance of \$25,000. Unfortunately, soon after he began to write the book, he learned that he had throat cancer. He died three days after completing the manuscript.

The book was a huge success, selling over 300,000 copies and earning Grant's heirs half a million dollars in royalties.

(Editor's note: This was taken from an article in The Wall Street Journal that was sent to Tom McKenna which Tom shared with me. I will make some copies to bring to the February meeting in case members would like to read the entire article. It's very interesting. And, I know a number of you have been to Grant's Cottage, and a number will be visiting this May with the Round Table.)

## **Tragedy at City Arsenal**

Some of you might remember the articles and photos in two issues of our newsletter last year about the Tragedy at City Arsenal. There's a short article in *America's Civil War*, March 2009 issue written by Kim A. O'Connell which states that the marble and granite monument has been suffering from a form of decay known as "sugaring," in which the stone grains on the surface are disintegrating, softening the carving details and making the inscriptions on the monument difficult to read. As part of a \$1.75 million project that includes restoration of the 202-year old Congressional Cemetery's 169 historic cenotaphs, the National Cemetery Administration and the Historic Preservation Training Center of the National Park Service have now partnered to repair the arsenal monument.

The work includes consolidating the sugaring marble with special treatments to adhere loose grains, repointing any open mortar joints, after which the monument will be cleaned using a misting system and antimicrobial wash.

## **Round Table Member, Dave Bernard**

Our dear friend and Round Table member, Dave Bernard, is at Elmwood Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, 290 Hanover Street, Claremont, NH 03743, Room 107B. He has a direct line: 603-542-4875, and keeps the phone right next to him! He would love to hear from folks or have them stop by. It looks as if he'll be at Elmwood or another nursing home for quite some time.

## **Reconsidering the Man from Illinois**

This is the title of a very interesting article in the New York Times in December, 2008 by Edward Rothstein, an essayist

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who specializes in reviewing exhibits of historical subjects. In it, he reviews an exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington open through July 5, 2009, which has 30 images of Lincoln and 2 extraordinarily different life masks, one from 1860 and the other from February, 1865, just 2 months before the assassination [www.npg.si.edu/exhibit/lincoln]. The article which is also accessible on the Internet [www.nytimes.com/2008/12/12/arts/design/12linc.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss -] also covers a number of new books and exhibits about Lincoln which are available at the website: www.nytimes.com/2008/12/12/arts/design/12blincoln.html. This includes note of the reopening of Ford's Theater in Washington, which we visited as part of our Round Table tour a few years ago.

There are several great quotes such as "This war is eating my life out," Lincoln told a friend. "I have a strong impression that I shall not live to see the end." Nevertheless the article shows one of the last Gardner portraits of Lincoln with a an "enigmatic smile, as if in the closing weeks of the war, he saw, despite the struggles to come, a sign of what might be."

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

Rothstein especially mentions the new 2-volume book by Michael Burlingame "drawing on new discoveries of letters and newspaper writings (as well as a lost 1865 eulogy of Lincoln by Frederick Douglass)".

He comments that if Lincoln had died in 1860 then we probably would not remember him. He then reviews Lincoln's role during the war and his changing views of the need to end slavery. He gives an interesting quote from Andrew Delbanco, a biographer of Herman Melville, in one of the books mentioned, "that the Civil War, for all its trauma, was unlike many other wars in that it did not produce a crisis that left the country with a sense of purpose. That is because he suggests, Lincoln found 'transcendent meaning in the carnage' and affirmed that meaning for both sides, thus becoming another founding father.

(Contributed by Peter Sinclair.)

***"To fill up the Army is like undertaking to shovel fleas."* Abraham Lincoln**

