



The Camp Griffin Gazette

News and Information from the Green Mountain Civil War Round Table

Vol. XVIII, No. 12– February 2010

President & Publicity: Jack Anderson -
jwahist@comcast.net

Treasurer: Gail Blake -
auntis@comcast.net

Program Chair - Peter Sinclair
Peter.R.Sinclair@Dartmouth.Edu

Newsletter Editor:: Ginny Gage -
lewandginny@emailmv.com

Membership Chairperson: Mary Davis -
mary_davis01@comcast.net

Video Maven : Alan Cheever
URFINE@aol.com

Our Web Site: <http://www.vermontcivilwar.org/gmcwrt/index.html>

KATE CLIFFORD LARSON

“THE ASSASSIN’S ACCOMPLICE:

MARY SURRETT AND THE PLOT TO KILL

ABRAHAM LINCOLN”

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2010

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 lunch reservations **MUST BE MADE** by 7 p.m., Feb. 11. **Cost per person for the buffet lunch 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 e-mail her at auntis@comcast.net.

MENU
ASSORTED SANDWICHES
HOT DISH – DESSERT

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

Kate Clifford Larson, PhD.

Kate Clifford Larson, PhD., is an historian and author of *The Assassin’s Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln* (Basic Books, June 2008). With degrees from Simmons College and Northeastern University, and a doctorate in history from the University of New Hampshire, Larson specializes in 19th and 20th century U.S. Women’s and African American History. Dr. Larson is also a leading Harriet Tubman scholar and the author of *Bound For the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of an American Hero* (Ballantine/One World, 2004), one of the first non-juvenile Tubman biographies published in six decades. She has been working as a consultant and interpretive specialist for numerous museum, community, and public history initiatives related to Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad in Maryland and New York, and also served as the consulting historian for the National Park Service’s *Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study*, resulting in the introduction of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park Act, now awaiting approval in Congress. Dr. Larson has been a guest instructor at numerous professional development workshops for teachers, including National Endowment for the Humanities and Teaching American History programs, on the topics of American Slavery, the Underground Railroad, Abolition, and Harriet Tubman. She teaches at both Simmons College and Wheelock College in Boston. *The Assassin’s Accomplice* is due out in paperback this spring.

2010 Program Schedule
Program Chair: Peter Sinclair

- 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
- May 11** **Andy Ward – Gettysburg Licensed**
Battlefield Guide – “Gettysburg
National Cemetery”
- June 8** **Benson Bobrick – “General**
Thomas”
- Sept. 14** **Patrick Falci – Topic to be decided**

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/

Feb. 12 – Capital District (Albany) CWRT Members Potpourri. 7 p.m. – Guilderland Public Library. For more information check out their web site at: www.cdcwrt.org

Feb. 19 – Civil War Roundtable of New Hampshire – Kate Clifford Larson – “The Assassin’s Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln.” Check out their web site for more information: www.cwrt-nh.org

Feb. 19– Joshua L. Chamberlain CWRT – Ashley Towle– “Damned Black Alligator: Marshall H. Twitchell in Red River Parish.” This is the saga of a Vermont soldier stationed in Louisiana at the end of the war. For more information check out their web site: <http://community.curtislibrary.com/chamberlaincwrt>

March 6 – Exeter, NH
Abraham Lincoln at Exeter

“When Abraham Lincoln arrived at the Exeter train station on Wednesday, February 29, 1860, he expected to be greeted by his eldest son, Robert Todd Lincoln, a student at Phillips Exeter Academy. Lincoln did not expect the exuberant crowd gathered by local Republican party

organizers who had read about Lincoln’s powerful speech at Cooper Union Hall in New York the previous Monday. Lincoln had planned to stay just a few days, but he extended his visit by a week and gave ten addresses around the region including speeches in Concord, Manchester, Dover and Exeter. Along with the Cooper Union address, these speeches raised Lincoln’s profile as a leading Republican candidate for President.

Lincoln’s 1860 visit to New Hampshire will be the focus of an Exeter Historical Society project funded in part by a Humanities Council major grant. The project will explore the significance of Lincoln’s visit to Exeter and its impact on his national political prospects.

The main event in the project will be a celebration and recreation of Lincoln’s visit to Exeter Town Hall on Saturday, March 3, 1860. In recreating the event on Saturday, March 6, 2010, the Exeter Historical Society will highlight the historic architecture of Exeter while utilizing contemporary newspapers, photographs, artifacts, diaries and writings found in its collections.

The highlight of the celebration will be the arrival of Mr. Lincoln himself, portrayed by living history presenter Steve Wood at Exeter’s historic Town Hall. Wood will deliver a speech that includes sections of Lincoln’s actual text from 1860 discovered in a little-known local newspaper from the period, *The American Ballot*. Exeter Town Moderator Charles Tucker will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the recreation, which begins at 5 p.m. The evening will also include a performance by the 12th New Hampshire Volunteer Regimental Serenade Band, a group that utilizes brass instruments from the 1850s.

Other events in the project include a talk by Lincoln historian Richard Schubart, Phillips Exeter Academy, on **Abraham Lincoln: From Springfield, Illinois to Exeter, New Hampshire and Beyond** on Wednesday, March 3 at the Exeter Historical Society and a lecture by Harold Holzer on Friday, March 5 at Phillips Exeter Academy. Holzer is a renowned Lincoln scholar who has authored books on Lincoln’s Cooper Union Address and the period between his election and inauguration.

Other events planned for Saturday, March 6 include guided walking tours of Lincoln-related sites in Exeter, activities for school-aged children offered by the Exeter High School History Club, and an afternoon concert by the 12th NH Volunteer Regimental Serenade Band. Events in this project are free and open to the public.”

(The above is from the January 2010 New Hampshire Humanities Council Calendar.)

“Did you know that I am a military hero? I fought, bled and came away” after “charges upon the wild onions” and “a good many bloody struggles with the Musquetoes.”

President Abraham Lincoln

**2010 GMCWRT
Battlefield Journey
UPDATE!**

April 29-May 4, 2010

We are pleased to announce that our own Barbara Watts will be our guide this year! Barb has been a member/friend of the RT for many years and is a Civil War Cavalry reanactor extraordinaire. She will guide us throughout our visit to Civil War Lexington VA and the surrounding area. Highlights of the trip will include visits to the Carlisle Military Barracks in Carlisle PA, VMI, all things Civil War in Lexington, Hunter's Raid, New Market, and Gettysburg, with a couple of special treats thrown in along the way. Cost for the trip will be approximately \$650 per person, double occupancy, based on a group of 40 people. Included are RT motor coach transportation from WRJct VT, 5 nights lodging, breakfast each day, driver gratuity, 4 lunches, 3 or 4 dinners, all admission and guide fees, information packet and onboard refreshments. Single rooms will be available at an additional cost. Deposits of \$75 per person are now being accepted. Deposits are 50% refundable if you cancel, 100% refundable if the trip is cancelled. Checks should be made payable to GMCWRT and sent to: Gail Blake, 55 Orizzonto Road, WRJct VT 05001 Questions, suggestions, comments? Email Gail at auntis@comcast.net or call 802-296-2919 A defined itinerary along with a reading list will be available soon. Hope you will join us!

**And, speaking of the trip and things
President Abraham Lincoln...**

We have DVD's available at our monthly meetings for FREE to members:

- #21 – "Field of Lost Shoes – Battle of New Market, VA"
- #23-27 – Lincoln-Douglas Debates
- #32 – Lincoln Assassination Special – Part 1
- #33 – Lincoln Assassination Special – Part 2

Any questions, please see Alan Cheever.

Notes from our January Meeting

Another fantastic meeting with 26 for lunch and another 5 people coming just for the program. Nice to see some of our members who are unable to attend our evening meetings.

Richard Brewster opened up the meeting to inform members of the recent book written by Duane Shaffer, former president of the New Hampshire Civil War Round Table, on the "Men of Granite – New Hampshire's Soldiers in the Civil War."

Tom McKenna spoke about the book "Life During the Civil War" by David A. Norris.

Dr. Ken Borie, our guest speaker, introduced Richard Chamberlin, who had a great-grandfather in the 16th Vermont Regiment. Richard has compiled his diary into a very nicely written book entitled "A Vermonter in the

Rebellion – A Soldier's Civil War Diary." Like many of us, I have seen diaries before and transcribed one from a member of the 2nd NH Sharpshooters. They can be quite dry, but Richard has done a very nice job adding a bibliography, historic references and annotations.

Jack Anderson told us about finding another relative through our newsletter's November issue whereby we include members' ancestors who had served in the Civil War to honor them. A gentleman who is related to Jack's Edwin Mayo who fought with the 21st ME, Co. B, was surfing the Internet and discovered that particular newsletter with the information on Mayo and Jack. He contacted Jack and sent him a photo of his ancestor. Jack had never seen a photo before.

Gail Blake spoke about the up-coming RT Trip. Seats are still available!

Jeanette Cook brought along the Don Troiani "First Manassas" print she had won from the Capital District Civil War Round Table December banquet. A number of us sent in money for raffle tickets, but, we didn't stand a chance with Jeanette purchasing tickets as well! Jack decided it would be best if he sold the print, which Jeanette has graciously donated to our RT, on ebay, and the money received will go to battlefield preservation. Thank you, Jeanette, for your generous offer.

Peter introduced our speaker, Dr. Ken Borie. Dr. Borie spoke before at our RT, and we welcomed him back. He gave a powerpoint presentation on Civil War Medicine, focusing on Surgeon General William Hammond who was court-martialed in 1864, Dr. Henry Janes, from Waterbury, VT, and Civil War medicine before and during the Civil War.

We learned that Dr. Samuel P. Moore, a Confederate surgeon general, published a monthly medical magazine, General George McClellan started the first Ambulance Corps in 1862, and Congress organized the Ambulance Corps on March 11, 1864, there was 600,000 gallons of "medicinal whisky" issued by the government, Dr. Janes had close to 20,000 patients under his care with 250 surgeons, he was the Lt. Col. in charge of the Sloan Hospital in Montpelier in 1865, the Union army performed 29,981 amputations, the number one cause of Union deaths were diarrhea and dysentery, William Hammond started the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, he served in New Mexico and at West Point, he received a court martial because he angered Edwin Stanton, and because he banned mercury based compounds from the Union supplies. He was found guilty after a 4 month long trial, but later became the "Father of Neurology," and had his guilty verdict reversed after the war. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. These are only some of the interesting tidbits we learned about.

After a great presentation Dr. Borie asked us questions. Whoever knew the answers won books that he had brought with him. Gary Ward won two of the books ("Across Five Aprils" and "A Vermonter in the Rebellion") and Jean Andersen won "Personal Memories of U.S. Grant."

We sold 57 raffle tickets, and our winners were Dave Curtain, Jean Andersen, Gary Ward, Brian Smith, and a visitor.

Alice Evans' Favorite Civil War Books List

(Editor's note: Back in the October newsletter I included the list of the top 50 Civil War books and asked members to send me their personal Top 5 Civil War books, and I would include them in a future newsletter. Alice is the only one who sent me anything, but the list is so good, I thought I would pass it along. Thanks, Alice!)

Multivolume Sets

Battles and Leaders of the Civil War (4 vols.), Robert Underwood Johnson and Clarence C. Buel, eds. (based on "The Century War Series"), n.d.

The Army of the Potomac trilogy by Bruce Catton, c. 1951-1953:

Mr. Lincoln's Army

Road to Glory

A Stillness at Appomattox

The Civil War: A Narrative (3 vols.), Shelby Foote, c. 1963

Single Volume Commentaries; Analyses of Specific Aspects of the War (inc. period just prior to the war years)

This Republic of Suffering, Drew Gilpin Faust, c.

2008

Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln,

Doris Kearns Goodwin, c. 2005

For Cause and Comrades, James McPherson, c.

1997

The Gettysburg Gospel, Gabor Borit, c. 2006

Lincoln at Cooper Union, Harold Holzer, c. 2004

The Generalship of U.S. Grant, J.F.C. Fuller, 2nd

edition, c. 1958

The Sword of Lincoln: The Army of the Potomac,

Jeffrey D. Wirt, c. 2005

Grant and Sherman: The Friendship that Won the Civil War,

Charles Bracelen Flood, c. 2005

Memoirs/First Person Accounts of Campaigns

The Battle of Gettysburg, Jesse Bowman Young,

1913

Ulysses S. Grant: Personal Memoirs and Selected

Letters, Ulysses S. Grant,

Literary Classics Edition, c. 1990

Fiction:

Novels

Andersonville, Mackinlay Kantor, c. 1955

The Killer Angels, Michael Shaara, c. 1974

Short Stories

An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge (1890),

and

A Horseman in the Sky (1891), both by

Ambrose Bierce

Poetry

Leaves of Grass, Walt Whitman;

Doubleday, Doran & Co., ed., c. 1940

Monday, February 11, 1861. Springfield, IL and Indianapolis, IN.

At approximately 7:30 A.M. President-elect leaves Chenery House without Mrs. Lincoln for Great Western Railroad depot, to start trip to Washington.

Washington Star, 12 February 1861; Thomas D. Jones, *Memories of Lincoln* (New York: Press of the Pioneers, 1934), 16; Monaghan, *Diplomat*, 28.

Withdraws \$400 from Springfield Marine Bank; deposits \$82.25, payment by S. H. Melvin for certain household furniture. Pratt, *Personal Finances*, 164, 179.

Shakes hands with friends as they file by. At 8 A.M. boards train and in response to demands of crowd (estimated at 1,000) speaks from rear platform: "My friends~No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. . . . I now leave, . . . with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. . . . Trusting in Him, who can go with me, and remain with you . . . I bid you an affectionate farewell." Later, with aid of John G. Nicolay, he writes out farewell remarks at request of reporter. *Illinois State Journal*, 13 February 1861; Villard, *Eve of '61*, 70-73; *Farewell Address at Springfield, Illinois*, 11 February 1861, CW, 4:190-91.

Lincoln acknowledges greetings of people at number of stops during morning. At Decatur, Ill. moves rapidly through crowd at depot, shaking hands right and left. *Illinois State Journal*, 13 February 1861.

Makes brief remarks at Tolono and Danville, Ill. *Baltimore Sun*, 13 February 1861; *Remarks at Tolono, Illinois*, 11 February 1861, CW, 4:191; *Remarks at Danville, Illinois*, 11 February 1861, CW, 4:191-92.

At 12:30 P.M. train arrives at Indiana State Line where he is welcomed by committee of state legislature headed by Capt. Frederick Steele. Here Great Western joins Toledo and Wabash, and large numbers of Indiana politicians board train. At Lafayette, Ind., Lincoln says: "While some of us may differ in political opinions, still we are all united in one feeling for the Union. We all believe in the maintainance of the Union, of every star and every stripe of the glorious flag, and permit me to express the sentiment that upon the union of the States, there shall be between us no difference." *Remarks at Indiana State Line*, 11 February 1861, CW, 4:192; *Speech at Lafayette, Indiana*, 11 February 1861, CW, 4:192.

Greets people at Thorntown and Lebanon, Ind. Every station along route has its crowd. *Remarks at Thornton and Lebanon, Indiana*, 11 February 1861, CW, 4:192-93.

Arrives in Indianapolis at 5 P.M. At West Washington St. is officially welcomed by Gov. Oliver P. Morton (Ind.) and receives 34-gun salute.

Washington Star, 13 February 1861.

Lincoln replies: "To the salvation of this Union there needs but one single thing - the hearts of a people like yours. . . . my reliance will be placed upon you and the people of the United States . . . It is your business to rise up and preserve the Union and liberty, for yourselves, and not for me." Indianapolis Indiana State Guard, 16 February 1861; Reply to Oliver P. Morton at Indianapolis, Indiana, 11 February 1861, CW, 4:193-94.

Leaves train for carriage, remains standing, and joins procession of 20,000, composed of both houses of legislature, public officers, municipal authorities, military, and firemen, to Bates House, where he stays overnight. From balcony he says: "The words 'coercion' and 'invasion' are in great use about these days. . . . Would the marching of an army into South Carolina, for instance, without the consent of her people, and in hostility against them, be coercion or invasion? . . . But if the Government, for instance, but simply insists upon holding its own forts, or retaking those forts which belong to it, or the enforcement of the laws of the United States . . . or even the withdrawal of the mails from those portions of the country where the mails themselves are habitually violated; would any or all of these things be coercion? . . . What is the particular sacredness of a State? . . . I am speaking of that assumed right of a State, as a primary principle, that the Constitution should rule all that is less than itself, and ruin all that is bigger than itself. But, I ask, wherein does consist that right? . . . I am deciding nothing, but simply giving something for you to reflect upon." Speech from the Balcony of the Bates House at Indianapolis, Indiana, 11 February 1861, CW, 4:194-96.

At 7 P.M. begins greeting no fewer than 3,000 persons during impromptu reception in main parlor. Villard, Eve of '61, 75-79.

Becomes excited over temporary loss of satchel containing copies of Inaugural Address. Nicolay, Lincoln's Secretary, 61-65.

NEW LINCOLN EXHIBIT OPENED TO THE PUBLIC IN SEPTEMBER, 2009

On Saturday, September 5, a new exhibit opened to the public at The Lincoln Family Home at Hildene. "The American Ideal: Abraham Lincoln and the Second Inaugural" is set within the context of Lincoln's Second Inaugural, which harkens back to the then radical beliefs first enunciated in the Declaration of Independence. Visitors will learn how the Civil War and President Lincoln helped bring life and meaning to the promise of the American Ideal of equality, justice and opportunity for all. The exhibit incorporates text from the speech, considered to be one of the president's greatest, and artifacts from the collections of Hildene and Brown University's John Hay Library, one of the five great Lincoln collections. The two institutions recently formalized their partnership with a Memorandum of Understanding and the formation of the Hildene-Brown Collaborative.

When it comes to discussing the significance of the exhibit, Hildene Executive Director Seth Bongartz readily states his belief that, "Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address is not only the finest Presidential speech in American history, it may be the finest piece of writing ever produced by any American in any genre. If we are able, with the aid of relevant artifacts, to reintroduce our guests to the meaning of the Second Inaugural and the ideals Lincoln sets forth for the country, we will have accomplished something important."

The Lincoln Family Home at Hildene is open daily from 9:30 to 4:30. Admission, which includes the exhibit, is \$12.50 for adults, \$5 for youth 6-14, children under 6, Hildene members and volunteers are free. For more information on Hildene, visit www.hildene.org, call 802.362.1788 or email info@hildene.org.

Paula Maynard
Public Relations Liaison
Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home
PO Box 377
Manchester, Vermont 05254

(802) 367-7961
paula@hildene.org

U.S. CAPITAL STATUE FOR OHIO

As reported in the New York Times of November 27, 2009, Ohio is considering replacing one of the two statues that represent this state in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the U.S. Capitol. One is of Governor William Allen (Governor, 1874-76) who was not in favor of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution which extended voting rights to African-American males. U.S. Grant is one of the possible replacements as both a General in the Civil War and President, but other prominent Ohio citizens are potential candidates, such as former Presidents Taft and McKinley. Another proposed candidate is James M. Ashley who was a congressman during the Civil War from Toledo (1863-9), and an ally of Lincoln. He helped write the 13th Amendment that outlawed slavery.

There will be a recommendation by the spring which needs approval by the Ohio General Assembly as well as the Governor and a Congressional Committee on the Library of Congress. Ohio will have to pay for a new statue.

Further information about James Ashley's political career is taken from Wikipedia: He was an active abolitionist associated with John Brown and traveled with John Brown's wife on the day of Brown's execution. He reported the event in the Toledo Blade. In 1858 he was elected to the 36th Congress as a Republican. While in Congress (the 37th through 40th), he served as the chairman of the Committee on Territories. He took an active role in supporting the recruitment of troops for the Union Army during the war, wrote a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, introduced the first bill for a constitutional amendment abolishing slavery, and initiated impeachment proceedings against President Andrew Johnson (1867). He was defeated for re-election in 1868.

(The above contributed by Peter Sinclair. Thank you!)

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 March 2010 newsletter is February 28, 2010.

“As the years [roll] by, this whole Nation will grow to feel a peculiar sense of pride in the mightiest of the mighty men who mastered the mighty days; the lover of his country and of all mankind; the man whose blood was shed for the union of his people and for the freedom of a race: Abraham Lincoln.”

President Theodore Roosevelt at a dedication at the old Lincoln birth cabin at a knoll above Sinking Spring, Kentucky .

Green Mountain Civil War Round Table

P.O. Box 1245

White River Jct., VT 05001

**Green Mountain Civil War Round Table
March 2010— March 2011 Membership Rates**

Name: _____

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- 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.

