



The Camp Griffin Gazette

News and Information from the Green Mountain Civil War Round Table

Vol. XVII, No. 6 – June 2009

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“LINCOLN AND HIS ADMIRALS”

DR. CRAIG SYMONDS

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 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., June 7, 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.

Dr. Craig L. Symonds

Dr. Craig L. Symonds is Professor Emeritus of American History at the United States Naval Academy from which he retired in 2005. The first person ever to win both the Naval Academy’s “Excellence in Teaching” award (1988) and its

“Excellence in Research” award (1998), he also served as History Department chair from 1988 to 1992, and received the Department of the Navy’s Superior Civilian Service medal on three occasions. He served as Professor of Strategy at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island (1971-74) and at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, England (1994-95).

Symonds is the author of twelve books, including prize-winning biographies of Joseph E. Johnston (1992), Patrick Cleburne (1997), and Franklin Buchanan (1999), as well as *The American Heritage History of the Battle of Gettysburg* (2001). *Decision at Sea: Five Naval Battles that Shaped American History* (2005), won the Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt Prize for Naval History. His most recent book, *Lincoln and His Admirals: Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. Navy, and the Civil War*, won the Barondess Prize, the Laney Prize, the Lyman Prize, and the Lincoln Prize for 2009.

He and his wife Marylou live in Annapolis, Maryland. They have one son and one grandson.

A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM

We have a few copies left of the 1809-2009 “A New Birth of Freedom” magazine that has been put out for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial. These magazines are 138 pages. There are short articles by President Obama, Harold Holzer, Craig L. Symonds, our June speaker, Thomas F. Schwartz, Illinois state historian, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield, IL, college history professors, Lewis E. Lehrman, advisor to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and author of *Lincoln at Peoria: The Turning Point*, etc., etc., plus there is a page for each state explaining what they have done or will be doing in each state to celebrate.

We thought this might be a good opportunity to try and raise some money for our Round Table by asking anyone interested in these magazines to make a donation of \$5.00 each.

They will be available at our June meeting and future meetings until gone. Please feel free to contact Ginny Gage by e-mail at lewandginny@emailmv.com or at home at 603-542-4664 if you would like me to put a copy aside for you.

(Thanks to Irving Moy of the CT Bicentennial Committee for sharing these with us.)

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 September 2009 newsletter is August 23, 2009.

2009 Program Schedule Program Chair: Peter Sinclair

- Sept. 8** Peter Sinclair – NY RT Trip
- Nov. 10** Ed Lilley – “Damn the Torpedoes!
Battle of Mobile Bay”

2010 Program Schedule

- Feb.** Kate Larson – “The Assassin’s
Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the
Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln.”

Other Round Table Meetings and Happenings

June 11 – 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

June 11 – Joshua L. Chamberlain Civil War Round Table – Craig Symonds speaking on his book “**Lincoln and His Admirals.**” This meeting will be at the Kennebec Tavern at 5:30 P.M. For more information contact Sue Bailey at sebailey273@wmconnect.com

June 12 – CDCWRT – Patrick Schroeder, historian at the NPS at Appomattox who will speak on “**Zouaves, America’s Forgotten Soldiers.**” Meeting to be held at the Guilderland Public Library. For more information, check out their web site: www.cdcwrt.org

June 12 – NHCWRT – Craig Symonds. Please check out their web site for more information: www.cwrt-nh.org/

June 17 – NEKCWRT – Janet Burklew who will speak on **Dr. James.** – For more information, contact Joan Huguenin at PoohBahToo@hotmail.com or 802-754-6402.

July 4 – “A Salute to Freedom”

The Mount Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire will be hosting “A Salute to Freedom” for the Fourth of July weekend. The weekend is now filled with great demonstrations, appearances and performances that celebrate the history of the United States. The 2nd Continental Light Dragoons and The United Train of Artillery highlight the celebrations on the 4th, along with performances by The 12th NH Volunteer Regiment Serenade Band. “Teddy Roosevelt: Mind, Body and Spirit” actor/author/educator Ted Zalewski brings to life one of our greatest presidents. An Evening Lecture with Dr. John Resch: *The American Revolution*. This presentation will discuss the development of a stronger centralized government under the Constitution during the American Revolution. President Lincoln will deliver the Gettysburg address, WWI bi plane rides and fly over’s, and a concert of the Hal McIntyre Orchestra. We are still looking to add Civil War or Revolutionary War reenactments if there are any groups available. We would like to thank all the people already participating in our effort to salute our troops all around the world.

Check out their web site at:

http://www.mountwashingtonresort.com/uploads/event/pdf/255/a_salute_to_freedom_09.pdf

(If you’re interested in participating, please contact Robert Hunt at 603-278-8866, 603-278-7827 Fax or at rhunt@mountwashingtonresort.com)

August 21-23, 2009 Historic Hillsborough NH's 2009 Living History Event

Email: LivingHistoryEvent@tds.net

Interact with period artisans, musicians, reenactors, historical figures, dancers, crafters, children's activities and more. Sample mouth-watering traditional foods. Ride a trolley! Experience the life of a New Englander in the 1700's, the 1800's and early 1900's. Join us on the weekend of August 21-23, 2009 for a delightful, interactive living history experience depicting the unique history of the New England area. Venture on a fantastic trip throughout Hillsborough and discover the historic villages, museums, President Franklin Pierce's homestead, historic buildings, scenic drives, and stone arch bridges. Six Great Locations ~ Fantastic Food ~ Fun for the Whole Family! Adults ~ \$10.00 • Seniors (65+) ~ \$8.00 Children (6 – 17) ~ \$5.00 • Children 5 & Under ~ FREE Special event privileges for those dressed in 1800's period costume. Hosted by the Hillsborough Main Street Program & the Hillsborough Historical Society. Need More Information?

WWW.LIVINGHISTORYEVENTNH.COM Write:
Hillsborough Pride, PO Box 1537, Hillsborough, NH 03244

NEWS FROM SAINT-GAUDENS

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site is open for the season. Buildings are open 9 am to 4:30pm, 7 days a week and grounds until dusk.

This year the park is also participating in the 2009 Lincoln Bicentennial commemoration with a special 25-minute tour about Augustus Saint-Gaudens and his Standing and Seated Lincoln Monuments both located in Chicago. The tour will be offered twice daily at 11:30am and 3:30pm through the season.

In addition, a new 12-page color booklet about Saint-Gaudens and his Lincoln monuments will be available free of charge while supplies last.

For information about visiting the park please call the site at (603)675-2175 or visit us on the web at <www.nps.gov/saga>

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site
139 Saint-Gaudens Road, Cornish, NH 03745
(603) 675-2175 x143 – phone (603) 675-2701- fax

Soldiers & Civilians

Now through October 12, 2009:

“**Brothers in Arms**” exhibit on the common soldier and his loved ones back home at New England Via Vermont, Alburgh Village. Includes medicine, Underground Railroad, veterans, children, ladies, scoundrels and more. Free. Open daily 10-5, with Sundays and Wednesdays by chance. For information, (802) 796-3665; www.newenglandviavermont.com
(From the June 2009 Civil War News.)

June Menu
Gail's Favorite!
Hamburger “Bar”
With French Fries and Baked Beans
Macaroni and Cheese
Dessert

Notes from our May Meeting

Our May meeting was attended by 29 members and guests.

Gail Blake gave a synopsis of the recent trip to New York. Please see Pages 4 through 6 of this newsletter.

Peter Sinclair and Bob Coburn gave short little congratulatory speeches thanking Gail for all she did.

Peter and Jackie returned from Australia just before the trip where Peter attended the Adelaide Civil War Round Table meeting. Please see this page.

Vernon Bond brought back north some interesting artifacts he purchased over the winter. One of the artifacts was a document with Abraham Lincoln's signature on it and another a letter from U.S. Grant in 1862.

Peter thanked Dave Curtain for taking over for him for the 2 months he was in Australia. Dave did a wonderful job while Peter was away.

Member Dick Simpson gave a slide presentation on the Battle of Wilson's Creek, and then showed slides of the current battlefield. As always, a very informative program about an important, but lesser known battle.

Dick donated some books to our book raffle, and raffle winners were Brian Smith, Dave Curtain, Bob Coburn, Ron Holm, Ed Lilley, Jeanette Cook, and Vernon Bond. We made \$75.00 on the raffle, and Dick matched that amount which was sent to Ken McClure, President of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation. If anyone would like to make a donation to this Foundation, please mail it to P.O. Box 8163, Springfield, Missouri .

Monument Dedication

May 16, 2009

Third VT Volunteer Infantry Regiment

Battle of Dam No. 1

April 16, 1862

Battle of Lee's Mills

From our Round Table correspondent, Tom McKenna:

“There was a small crowd but it was a nice ceremony, well done. The GMCWRT and SUVCW were both represented. It started with a brief history of the battle at Dam #10, the stories of William Scott, Julian Scott, and Captain Pingree, who led the charge across the river. The monument was, as expected, an expertly done tribute to the 3rd Vermont. Seven of the Hemlocks were there to present the colors and fire three volleys.”



Dedication of the 3rd VT monument at Rock of Ages in Graniteville. The sky was overcast and it started raining before the governor finished speaking.”

Civil War Veterans in Australia

Peter Sinclair reported at the May meeting that he had met with 3 members of a Round Table in Adelaide, South Australia in April. They showed him a book with the above title by Roy W. Parker who found that 241 veterans are buried in Australia. How they came there varies but many

went there for a more peaceful way of life or for mining gold following its discovery in several places after the California gold rush. The information came from many sources and then further information was obtained from the US National Archives to prepare biographical sketches of each veteran. A copy of the book is being sent to us but here is some preliminary information.

Karl Frederick Hall- Co K 14th Maine Infantry. Injured while in Louisiana he was finally discharged in May 1863. It is not known when he moved to Australia but he married in Sydney in July 1874 and applied for a pension through the US Consul in 1892 and died in 1906 and is buried in the large Rookwood Cemetery in Sydney.

John Lester- 18th MA Infantry; US Navy USS James Adger.

He was born in London in 1845 and was an English volunteer never becoming an American citizen. He was in the 28th as an unassigned recruit and mustered from Eastham, MA in April, 1864 but discharged in May, 1864, having received a \$25 bounty fee. Naval archives indicate he served on the James Adger which was built in 1852 and served in the Atlantic Blockading Squadron throughout the war, and was involved in the capture of Fernandina, FL as well as islands in GA in March 1862. There is no information as to why he emigrated to Australia. He died in 1907 and is buried in a South Australian cemetery.

Most of the Australian veterans were from Union forces.

Peter was told that a prominent businessman, Allan Scott, who had recently died, was a relative of General Winfield Scott (1786-1866), so Peter felt he should tell Ed Lilley, also a Scott relative. It was therefore quite a pleasant surprise on the recent Round Table trip, when touring the West Point Cemetery, to see Winfield Scott's monument inscribed on the end "Restored by Allan A Scott of Mt Gambier, South Australia; Great Great Grandson".

Dave Bernard

Just an update on our friend Dave. Lew and I usually visit him once or twice a week. As you can imagine, the talk seems to steer towards the Civil War, although we do discuss other wars as well.

He is still at Elm Wood Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, 290 Hanover Street, Claremont, NH 03743. He is now in Room 308.

If you're in the area, please stop by and visit, or mail him a note or postcard if you're on vacation!

GREEN MOUNTAIN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE 2009 JOURNEY

(Or how to be late without even trying)

By Gail Blake

Twenty five of us departed White River Jet at 8 am sharp on Thursday, April 30th, with more empty seats on our bus than we had ever seen before, but no one seemed to mind, as we were in the capable hands of our driver extraordinaire, Bob Spaulding. Bob delivered us, on time, to our first stop of the day at the Grant Cottage, site of President Grant's death, is located on Mount MacGregor in Wilton NY. The Cottage happens to be on the grounds of a state prison, so our first stop was actually at the security gate. The guards couldn't quite seem to decide what to do with our bus, so we waited, and waited, and waited, and waited some more, until finally we were escorted to the cottage and dropped off, while Bob returned the bus to the security area. The officer kindly returned Bob to us at the Cottage so he could enjoy the tour as well. Two guides from the Friends of Grant's Cottage met us and divided us into two groups; one group toured the Cottage while the other went to the Overlook. We were the first official visitors of the year, and the guides had really stored up a lot of information over the winter and we were most willing to listen to it all. The Cottage is really a fascinating place and we are most fortunate that it has been maintained and preserved; I urge those of you that haven't visited the Cottage to do so. Following our tour I realized we were running very late, so we hustled down the hill to the visitor's center, ate our lunches standing on the porch while waiting for security to come and pick up Bob.....we waited, and waited, and waited some more, and finally after the lunches were finished and the trash was collected our friendly security officer returned, transported Bob back to the bus. Bob returned shortly and we were off to our next stop of the day, The New York State Military Museum, located in Saratoga Springs NY.

We arrived at the Museum, nearly an hour late, but our guide was still there; ready and willing to take us through the museum which is housed in what was once an armory. He told us the history of the armory and the process of creating the museum,

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.

which contains an amazing collection of NY State military artifacts. Many of us also toured the weapons room which is not open to the general public. The museum has amassed an outstanding collection of weapons, dating back to the pre-Revolutionary War period. The history contained in that room is amazing! NY State is currently attempting to restore its Civil War flag collection, a struggle many of us are familiar with. Once the flags are restored they hope to house them at the museum. We wished them luck with the flags and thanked them profusely for their patience with us, boarded the bus and headed on to our first night of rest and relaxation.

We were a little late arriving at our hotel in Fishkill NY, but our hosts had a wonderful buffet dinner waiting for us, so all was well. After a good night's sleep we had breakfast at the hotel, checked out and headed to the nearest hospital. It seemed we had our own Typhoid Mary, henceforth known as Shingles Jackie, on board! Poor Jackie had contracted a bad case of shingles, so we left her at the hospital, and headed for our visit to FDR's Hyde Park. We enjoyed a wonderful tour of the grounds, FDR's home, and the museum. We received a call from Shingles Jackie, with good news, saying she was ready to be picked up, so we boarded the bus and ate our bountiful boxed lunches on the way back to the hospital. We found Shingles Jackie amid a band of nurses's union protesters with her prescriptions in hand. Our next task was to find a pharmacy and lo and behold, a CVS was close by.

Being a part time CVS pharmacy employee I decided to go in with Shingles Jackie and see if I could use undue influence on the pharmacy staff to speed things along, no such luck. Anyway, the prescriptions were filled, Jackie was medicated and feeling better, we were well fed, and only a few minutes late for our scheduled arrival at West Point.

Upon arrival at West Point, we met our guide, Major Brit Erslev, and were subjected to more security checks. After passing the security guard's scrutiny we headed onto post for a very informative tour of the Academy grounds, including Trophy Point, the Parade Grounds, Reconciliation Plaza, complete with Barre VT granite, and the West Point Cemetery. We also drove by the legendary football field which thrilled me if nobody else. We had some time to visit the museum and gift shop before heading off to dinner.

Dinner was at the 76 House in Tappan NY, the oldest tavern in the country, and also, very well hidden..... Despite my wonderful directions, Bob managed to find the restaurant, and we weren't very late. We did manage to create a stir upon entering the restaurant through the wrong door, but other than that I think they enjoyed hosting us. The food was terrific and the history of the place is unparalleled. Benedict Arnold's co-conspirator Major John Andre was held prisoner there and was hanged on the hill behind the tavern. He was buried in Tappan, but his body was later exhumed

and sent to Westminster Abbey in London, however, some crafty fellow from Tappan, cut off the Major's big toe prior to his body being sent to England, and the toe currently resides in the Tappan Historical Society. Once a year the toe takes a place of honor on the mantle at the 76 House! Everyone who was anyone during the American Revolution either stayed at or visited the tavern and leaned upon the bar rail, which is still there. Needless to say, many of us ran our hands along the rail! After dinner we drove to our new home in South Plainfield NJ.

Saturday morning dawned chilly and rainy; nevertheless we enjoyed a bountiful breakfast at the hotel and headed into NYC for a day of sightseeing and adventure. We were scheduled to meet our NYC guide, Tom Bernardin at Grant's Tomb at 9 am, one wrong turn and a cell phone call later we arrived, just a little bit late. Grant's Tomb is quite spectacular and we wandered about while listening to the park ranger. After our visit we stopped at St. John's the Divine and St. Patrick's Cathedral, both spectacular churches! Then we headed off to Rockefeller Center, through security, and up to the observation deck for a bird's eye view of New York City. We met up in the gift shop and walked over to a genuine NYC deli for lunch. After we stuffed ourselves we drove through the city, took a walk through Greenwich Village, and moved on to the Financial District. We stopped at the Irish Famine Memorial, and then to Winter Garden, which has been completely rebuilt after it was destroyed on 9-11. We were able to look through the window and view the site upon which the World Trade Center stood. Quite a moving experience for us all. During our visit to Winter Garden, I learned that Shingles Jackie had struck down a fellow trip-goer. Dave Curtin had unwittingly hugged Shingles Jackie and by doing so he seemed to have contracted the virus.

We made plans to have Dave visit a hospital later that night and then forged on with our tour. Bob and Dave dropped us off at Little Italy, and we enjoyed some great Italian good and people watching. Bob and Dave never really told us what they did that evening, but they seemed in great spirits when they picked us up later. After returning to the hotel, Bob did yeoman's duty and took Dave to the nearest hospital. Fortunately all went well and Dave decided his biggest issue was to explain to his wife how he contracted shingles and Peter, Jackie's husband, had not.....

Sunday morning dawned with more rain, breakfast was great, and Dave decided to stay behind to take it easy, so we left him at the hotel, but took him along in spirit, and headed back to NYC for the day. We had Ellis Island ferry reservations for 9 am, but got held up in security (of all things) and finally set sail at 9:45 am, late once again. We met Tom at Ellis Island, had a rather quick but informative tour, then raced to catch the ferry, happy to say no one was left behind! Met up with Bob and had an even better lunch at another NYC deli near Battery Park, and then it was off to

Brooklyn to meet our guide for the afternoon. The NYC Bridges bike ride was in process, which necessitated a detour, making us a little late, go figure, anyway we found our guide, Mark Levy, who took us on a tour of Brooklyn. We saw lots of Revolutionary War sites, also visited the Grand Army Plaza which is quite impressive. Our visit to Green-Wood Cemetery was momentarily derailed by security, but in true NY style our guides talked our way in and we had a short and soggy tour. We left Mark at his car and headed back to the city and Times Square where we bid farewell to Tom, he was most appreciative of our gratuity and Vermont gift basket. We split up and did a little touring of Times Square in our own and then gathered at the Pig 'n Whistle for a nice dinner. After dinner many of us enjoyed a performance of *Chicago*, at the Ambassador Theater. Bob ferried some folks back to the hotel and returned just in time to pick us up after the theater.

Monday morning, we had breakfast, checked out and headed home. We stopped at Watervliet Arsenal near Troy, NY for a fabulous tour. We had to pass through security to gain access to the museum, but it was relatively quick and painless. I think we could have spent the better part of the day there looking at the cannon and exhibits. The "lost" Vermont cannon is stored there along with other notable historic artillery pieces. Joe Otis found a

rifle identical to the one he carried during WWII when he went ashore in North Africa, which was a special treat for him and a special treat for us to hear him talk about it. Finally hunger got the best of me and I was forced to lure everyone back to the bus so that we could visit the tavern across the street for lunch. Naturally we were about an hour late for lunch and the service was a bit slow, but we enjoyed a great meal and great conversation. Then we were finally homeward bound and amazingly enough we arrived back in WRJct just about on time!

I'd like to thank all those who came along on the trip, we really have a great group, and it is a pleasure to travel with them each year. Special thanks go out to our driver Bob Spaulding, he always does a great job, but this year he really performed above and beyond the call of duty! Also special thanks go out to the "cooler crew", Herb, Ginger, Whit, Alan and all those who take care of keeping us stocked with iced coolers and cold beverages.

Plans for next year's journey are in the works and I will keep everyone informed. I hope to have the group visit the Lexington VA area and focus on some the 1864 battles in that area along with VMI, Washington and Lee University and more.

Thanks again and have a great summer!

Green Mountain Civil War Round Table

P.O. Box 1245

White River Jct., VT 05001



