



The Camp Griffin Gazette

News and Information from the Green Mountain Civil War Round Table

Vol. XVIII, No. 3- March 2010

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MIKE PRIDE AND MARK TRAVIS

“CIVIL WAR PROJECTS,
PAST AND FUTURE”

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2010

HOTEL COOLIDGE

WHITE RIVER JCT., VT

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 12 Noon, March 12. **Cost per person for the buffet lunch 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.

MENU
ASSORTED SANDWICHES
SOUP
COFFEE/PUNCH
COOKIES

BLACK ANGUS IS CLOSING - GMCWRT TO MEET AT HOTEL COOLIDGE IN WRJCT VT

We were informed late last week that the Black Angus Restaurant will be closing on March 1st. New ownership will be in place, but the building is slated to undergo renovations and they will be unable to host us in the immediate future. As you can imagine, this news sent the executive committee into overdrive searching for a place for us to meet in March. After much discussion, Jack contacted David Briggs at the Hotel Coolidge in WRJct VT and wrangled a deal for us to meet at the Coolidge for the remainder of the year. We accepted their offer in the hope that it will provide us with a sense of stability for the remaining four meetings scheduled this year. If anyone has questions, concerns, or opinions regarding our future meetings including, but not limited to, the day of week that we meet, the meeting format (meal vs coffee and or snack), or our meeting place, please email Jack, jwahist@comcast.net, Peter, peter.sinclair@dartmouth.edu, Gail, auntis@comcast.net, call Gail at 802-296-2919, or be prepared to participate in brief discussion at our March meeting. If you need directions to the Hotel Coolidge, please contact Jack, Peter, or Gail. We hope our change in venue will not be an inconvenience to anyone and we are looking forward to seeing you all in March for another great meeting.

Mike Pride and Mark Travis

Mike Pride is a historian and freelance writer who lives in Concord. He has co-authored five books. His most recent is an updated edition of "Abraham Lincoln in New Hampshire," an account of four speeches Lincoln gave in the state in March 1860. His first book was "My Brave Boys," a history of the Fifth New Hampshire regiment under Col. Edward E. Cross, written with Mark Travis. Pride is the editor emeritus of the Concord Monitor, having retired in 2008 after 30 years at the newspaper.

Mark Travis worked for more than 20 years with Pride in the Concord Monitor newsroom as an editor and reporter, and "My Brave Boys" grew out of their friendship and shared interest in military history. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard in 2002-03, and is now the publisher of the Valley News in West Lebanon. The two authors hope to work together again on a history of New Hampshire in the Civil War.

(Editor's note: Some of you may remember that Travis and Pride spoke to our RT group when we were at the Hotel Coolidge back in 1999. They promise to give their "old" talk a "new wrinkle" and talk as well about their new project. We will not be bored!)

2010 Program Schedule Program Chair: Peter Sinclair

- April 10** **Kate Clifford Larson – "The Assassin's Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln"**
- 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**
- Nov. 9** **Joseph Collea – "The First Vermont Cavalry in the Civil War - A History."**

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR APRIL MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO SATURDAY, APRIL 10 AT 12 NOON!!!

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/

March 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

March 12 – Capital District (Albany) CWRT Chris Morton who will talk about the New York State flag collection. 7 p.m. – Guilderland Public Library. For more information check out their web site at: www.cdewrt.org

March 18– Joshua L. Chamberlain CWRT – Tom Desjardin, Historic Site Specialist for the State of Maine will speak on Maine's Forts in the Civil War. For more information check out their web site: <http://community.curtislibrary.com/chamberlaincwrt>

March 19 – Civil War Roundtable of New Hampshire – Civil War Jeopardy w/Liz Gardell & Cynthia Brown. Check out their web site for more information: www.cwrt-nh.org

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.)

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 reenactor 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!

Notes from our February Meeting

Even with a last-minute speaker cancellation due to illness, we still had a good group of 34-35 people attend our

February meeting. It was nice to see Dr. Ken Borie, Elaine Howe, and Kay Jorgensen at our meeting. Kay brought a number of Civil War News along which quickly disappeared.

Bob Coburn mentioned the recent article in the Valley News about the new book just out written by the Hartford High School principal, Joseph D. Collea, entitled "The First Vermont Cavalry in the Civil War - A History." (The book is in paperback, 331 pages, 40 photos, 23 maps, notes, bibliography, index. Published by McFarland & Co., Inc. According to the write-up: "The First Vermont Cavalry participated in 75 major Civil War engagements from 1862 through 1865. As the state's only mounted regiment, riding Vermont - bred Morgan horses, the cavalry unit battled some of the most notable Confederate cavalry commanders, mostly in Virginia. This history explores the battles and leaders of the unit, including generals George Custer and Philip Sheridan.

Author Biography:

Joseph D. Collea, Jr., is the principal of Hartford High School in White River Junction, Vermont, and has been an educator for 40 years. A Fulbright Scholar, he studied at the American University in Cairo." (Thanks, Peter!) Peter has contacted Collea, and he is scheduled to speak at our Nov. 9 meeting. Jackie Sinclair commented that in the book he indicates that ALL of the cavalry horses were Morgans, which couldn't be true. There followed quite a discussion about this possibility with Barb Watts, our "come to the rescue at the last minute" speaker and horse/cavalry expert.

Alice Evans gave a book report on Allen C. Guelzo's, "Lincoln and Douglas: The debates that defined America." c. 2004. Simon and Schuster Paperbacks, N.Y. She highly recommended it.

David Mayhew spoke about the paper he just wrote on Lt. Col. Chandler of the 10th VT. A copy of this is attached/enclosed.

Richard Brewster mentioned that he has put a display of Picketts Charge with his wonderful lead figurines (92!) at the Andover, NH, Library. Plus, he wrote up an article and handouts for the library. Richard has volunteered to make up similar dioramas for other libraries. Please see him at our next meeting if your library or historical society is interested. Anyone who has seen these figurines can attest to the detail and quality.

Whitney Maxfield spoke about a 1st Sgt. in the 5th NY Infantry, Co. H. who is buried at Hope Cemetery in Barre, VT. A new stone will be placed there on his grave in late spring, early summer. He is looking for reenactors to attend.

Tom McKenna explained about Confederate holidays: In Florida, and probably most of the Old South, they did not celebrate Lincoln's birthday but did celebrate Jefferson Davis' birthday. Two other southern holidays were January 19, General Robert E. Lee's birthday, and "Confederate Memorial Day" or "Decoration Day" (to distinguish it from the national "Memorial Day" holiday on May 30) was celebrated on April 25 in Florida and on varied dates in other states. Vicksburg surrendered to General Grant on 4 July and the city did not celebrate the 4th of July again until after D-Day in 1944. Until WW II, Confederate (battle) flags were flown on Confederate holidays but that custom died out, at least in Florida, during WW II. This was probably because so many GIs from all over the country

were stationed in the south and because the nation was as united as it has ever been in fighting WW II.

Jack Anderson informed us that the print Jeanette Cook so kindly donated to our RT isn't worth as much as he originally thought. It is more in the vicinity of \$495-595 plus mat and frame. He suggested having an on-line auction and raffling this off rather than putting it on ebay. Tom McKenna suggested it be raffled off at the Vermont History Expo. A vote was taken, and it was decided to have tickets printed up and raffled at the Expo. Anyone wanting to help, please see Jack.

Whitney gave a book report on "America's Civil War" by Hinton Helper which was written in 1857.

Jack mentioned the book "The Road" written by Cormick McCarthy. It is a book on survival which he said is the best book he's read. It won a Pulitzer Prize for Best Fiction.

Peter Sinclair spoke about his trip to New York City to see the Lincoln and John Brown exhibits.

Barbara Watts gave a very lively program on the RT's spring trip. If you haven't signed up yet, please see the information on Page 3 of this newsletter.

Our raffle items were won by Peter Sinclair, Dave Curtin, David McCullough, George Butts, and Brian Smith.

MARK WHEELER MANUSCRIPT

Tom Ledoux has posted the Mark Wheeler Memoir transcription our December speaker, Michelle Sherburne, transcribed and spoke about on the Vermont Civil War website! Check it out! It's under the "What's New" section.

(Thanks to Michelle for letting us know about this.)

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
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THE GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL OF CHARLES G. CHANDLER By David R. Mayhew

The only field grade officer of a Vermont regiment in the Civil War to be court-martialed and dismissed from the service for cowardice was Lieutenant Colonel Charles G. Chandler of the Tenth Vermont Regiment. The incident could perhaps be written off as a trivia question and answer except for the seemingly anomalous fact that Chandler served honorably for over three years with three different regiments prior to the Battle of Cedar Creek in October 1864, where his conduct came under question. In the six months preceding Cedar Creek, the Tenth Vermont and Lieutenant Colonel Chandler saw some of the most intense and bloodiest fighting of the war in battles such as Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor, Monocacy, and Winchester. The question then naturally arises, What other factors were involved in the events leading up to the court-martial?

Attached you will find the answer to the question. Or, if you receive the newsletter via regular mail and are a Round Table member, you will find the manuscript enclosed.

In his e-mail message to me, David comments:

I would be very interested and most appreciative if I can get feedback on this paper, in the form of comments, suggestions, criticism including its "readability", in terms of grammar, structure, clarity, etc.

LINCOLN AND NEW YORK EXHIBIT AT NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Peter Sinclair

In early February I visited New York with one goal being to see this exhibit which ends March 25th, 2010. The society building is located on Central Park West, next to the American Museum of Natural History whose front is dominated by a massive statue of Teddy Roosevelt on a horse. The

Lincoln exhibit is quite large and filled with detail, so I would recommend taking one of the two daily docent guided tours.

Here are a few of the highlights in the sequence presented in the exhibit: Lincoln comes to New York in February, 1860 to speak at Cooper Union. NYC was rather pro-South and against the anticipated war since 38% of every dollar earned in Europe for Southern cotton ended up in the city. Lincoln has his picture taken by Matthew Brady to be used for election posters. Horace Greeley of the NY Tribune is a major force behind Lincoln as presidential candidate since the abolitionist candidates such as NY Governor Seward are thought to be unelectable. There is a parade in NYC by a semi-military organization known as Wide Awake in support of Lincoln. The mayor, Fernando Wood, is also concerned about what a war would do to the cotton trade and business in general in the city. Lincoln wins in NY by 11% over Stephen Douglas. 1861. Lincoln suspends habeas corpus to control dissent and several are held in Fort Lafayette [I'd heard of similar jailings in Maryland but not in NY].

The exhibit has the Thomas Nast painting of the 7th NY Regiment marching off to war and also Elmer Ellsworth's uniform - he was shot early in war in Alexandria and was a Lincoln family friend. The shotgun hole is quite evident.

1862. Mayor Wood raises question whether NY state should secede from Union. In mid-term election, Horatio Seymour, a Copperhead Democrat is elected Governor. He opposes the draft for the Union army, and supports the draft riots of July, 1863, not realizing they would get out of hand and result in one third of the city burning as well as lynching of blacks. (Seymour loses re-election bid in 1864). He becomes the Democrat nominee for President in 1868 and lost heavily in the electoral but not the popular vote to U.S. Grant. Horace Greeley prompts Lincoln to introduce emancipation of the slaves resulting in Lincoln's famous response in August, 1862 in which he says his paramount objective is to do whatever is the shortest way to save the Union, whether or not it saves or destroys slavery. (It is worth reading the whole letter- google 'letter to horace greeley'). This response was despite the fact that Lincoln had already drafted the emancipation proclamation.

1864. Lincoln is reelected once the good news that Atlanta has fallen and Battle of Cedar Creek is won. Lincoln is inaugurated and exhibit has the Brooks Brothers coat he wore.

There is a lot of material about the change in perception of Lincoln before and after the assassination. Many in NY said they had voted for Lincoln even though they hadn't.

There is a book on the exhibit edited by Harold Holzer currently selling at \$50, but there is also a paperback version that should become available soon.

There was also an exhibit on John Brown with many original relics, letters, photos and other

documents. 2009 was the 150th anniversary of his execution after the raid at Harpers Ferry. This raid caused much fear in the South of a slave insurrection and is thought to have brought secession closer.

A movie was shown based on the recent book "Stealing Lincoln's Body" by Thomas Craughwell (2007). The author was present at the showing, and the film has already been shown on the History Channel (available for \$18 on DVD) and will probably be shown again. It reports the attempt of counterfeiters to steal the body once it was put in the Memorial building in Springfield. IL. The counterfeiters wanted to use the body as ransom for one of their jailed engravers.

On March 28, 1864, in the worst draft riots since those in New York City in 1863, fighting breaks out in Charleston, Illinois, leaving six dead and twenty injured.

18thVT Fundraiser

The 18th VT, the Hemlocks and the NEKCWRT will be holding a fundraiser on Thursday, April 22, 2010, at 6:30 PM the Elks Club in St. Johnsbury. Coffee & dessert will be served; the speaker is author/historian John V. Quarstein. (Google this man and see what he has done. Those Vermonters who attended the dedication of the monument last year at Lee's Mills met him there; he gave them a tour of the area). There is a move afoot to create and place a monument to the 1st Vermont at Big Bethel, which is a four acre site with four Confederate monuments extant. This fundraiser will provide some seed money for that effort. For tickets contact Bill Minsinger at 802 728 5895 or minsinger@comcast.net.

Congratulations Dr. Cross!

Our former Program Chair has become a grandpa once again! His daughter, Ann, who many of us remember from the help she graciously gave us at our Full Duty Banquets, delivered a boy, Oren Cross Chapman, the beginning of February. Her husband is home on emergency leave from the Vermont National Guard.

**Brian Smith
Robert Nero Fulton
Heratio P. Fulton**

As most of you know, we honor our ancestors each November who fought in the War of the Rebellion. Because of that, Jack has been united with distant relatives as was written in the January newsletter.

Well, it's happened again! This time I received a very nice e-mail message from a relative of Brian Smith's regarding his Fulton ancestors who fought in the 2nd and 9th Vermont Infantries. This information was passed along to Brian who will be in touch with his relatives!

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 April 2010 newsletter is March 28, 2010.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR ROUND TABLE MEMBERSHIP

If you have not already done so, it is time to renew your membership for the year. Membership runs from March through February. When completing the membership form (included in this newsletter), please remember to include your email address. We have been striving to send as many newsletters as possible by email, as printing and mailing costs consume a large portion of our treasury. Also, email helps us to be able to get additional information that may come up between meetings to you quickly. If you have any questions about whether or not your dues are paid, please call or email Mary Davis at mary_davis01@comcast.net or 603-448-3472.

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

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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.

