



The Camp Griffin Gazette

News and Information from the Green Mountain Civil War Round Table

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ANDY WARD

**GETTYSBURG LICENSED
BATTLEFIELD GUIDE**
**“GETTYSBURG NATIONAL
CEMETERY”**
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010
HOTEL COOLIDGE
WHITE RIVER JCT., VT

ANDY WARD

Andy Ward is a Licensed Battlefield Guide at the Gettysburg National Military Park in Gettysburg PA.

In addition to being a member of the Green Mountain Roundtable, Andy is a trustee and director of the 18th Vermont Regiment, and a member of several groups such as the Civil War Preservation Trust, the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides, the Adams County Historical Society, and the Gettysburg Foundation.

Andy also has a passion for photographing and writing about history, and his work has appeared in several civil War related books, magazines, and newspaper articles.

In 1981 he received a BA in American History from Johnson State College in, VT. When he is not guiding, Andy resides in Morrisville, VT where for nearly 30 years he has been an employee and part owner of the family business Ward's Systems Inc.

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 lunch reservations **MUST BE MADE** by 12 Noon, May 10. **Cost per person for the buffet dinner 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
TOSSED SALAD/OTHER SALAD
SOUP
COFFEE/TEA/PUNCH
COOKIES

On May 24, 1861, General Benjamin Butler causes an incident when he claims three fugitive slaves who walked into his command at Fort Monroe, Virginia, are war contraband and will not be returned to their owners.

2010 Program Schedule
Program Chair: Peter Sinclair

- 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.”**

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/

May 13– 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

May 14 – Capital District (Albany) CWRT – Kate Clifford Larson – “The Assassin’s Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln.” 7 p.m. – Guilderland Public Library. For more information check out their web site at: www.cdcwrt.org

May 20– Joshua L. Chamberlain CWRT – RT member Charleen Lambert will present the story of Alden Murch, 3rd ME Volunteer, in “Backing Into History.” Murch’s 200 Civil War letters were found stuffed in the beams of a barn decades after the war ended. For more information check out their web site: <http://community.curtislibrary.com/chamberlaincwrt>

May 14 – Civil War Roundtable of New Hampshire – Michael Kaufman – “Lucy Hale & John Wilkes Booth.” Check out their web site for more information: www.cwrt-nh.org

May 26 – NEKCWRT – Dick Simpson – “Battle of Pea Ridge.” For more information contact Joan Huguenin at PoohBahToo@Hotmail.com

June 14 – Cornish, NH, Historical Society, Trinity Church, Rte. 12A, Cornish – Lew Gage and Cornish Historical Society President, Jim Atkinson, to speak on Col. Haldimand S. Putnam, and the 7th NH Regiment.

Notes from our April Meeting

What a terrific speaker and meeting we had in April. We had a total of 35 people attend, 26 joining us for lunch.

Bob Coburn started the meeting off by telling us about his Revolutionary War canteen which he not only brought with him, but passed around so we could all enjoy it. What a treat. This one had gold paint on it and was in use between 1750-1850. Thanks, Bob for sharing!

Tom Shanahan mentioned that our June speaker, Benson Bobrick, has a book, “Master of War – Life of General George H. Thomas” that can be purchased through the Edward R. Hamilton, P.O. Box 15, Falls Village, CT. 06031-0015. www.edwardrhamilton.com/

(Editor’s note: I recently ordered two books through this company, and they came VERY QUICKLY, however, I was not able to find this book in their latest catalogue.)

As was mentioned in our April newsletter, the Third Vermont Regiment was having a Fund Raising event on April 22 to raise money for a monument to the 1st Vermont Infantry at the Battle of Big Bethel. Jack Anderson thought it would be a good idea to donate the Don Troiani print that Jeanette Cook had donated to our RT to that effort. After checking with Jeanette, he decided to bring the print with him to the event as a donation.

Peter Sinclair spoke briefly about the Lincoln Symposium he went to on April 5 at Dartmouth College.

The Vermont History Expo will be June 26 and 27 at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds.

Jack is part of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.

Whitney Maxfield told us quite a story about a visit to his dentist in January, and a patient of the dentist who had been on a diet of brown rice and had very poor gums but good teeth. Whitney suggested she had scurvy, and that’s exactly what she had!

Peter reminded everyone that we’re back to second night Tuesday meetings again for May and June.

Our much-awaited speaker, Dr. Kate Clifford Larson, gave a fantastic presentation on Mary Surratt and was she guilty in the plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Larson started right off by telling us that she was! Hopefully, Peter will ask Dr. Larson back to speak about Harriet Tubman.

Our raffle winners were Jack Anderson, Alice Evans, Peter Sinclair, John Blake, Guy DeStefano, Bob Coburn, and yes, Jeanette Cook.

Editor's Notes

As you can tell by the above Notes, I do not take very good ones. It would be very nice if someone else could take notes at meetings for us and then either mail them to me or e-mail them. Please let me know if you're interested. Doesn't even have to be every month, nor does it have to be just one person.

Also, I've been newsletter editor since 1999, and before that, helped the previous newsletter editor, Cathy Hoyt. If anyone has any interest in taking this job over, please let me know. I don't want folks to think that I have to do this forever and ever. If anyone would like to give it a try, I would be quite willing to step down.

Also, Peter Sinclair is still looking for someone to take over as Program Chair. He would be happy to work with someone for a while to help them out. As you know, he's done a fantastic job getting us great speakers, and has a list of speakers he would be happy to pass on to anyone interested. If you might be interested, please see Peter at a RT meeting.

Now that the snow has gone, let's all go visit cemeteries and locate Vermont Civil War soldiers' graves. Tom Ledoux, webmaster for the Vermont in the Civil War web site, is looking to add to his collection of photos of Vermont soldiers' stones, whether they are in Vermont or some other state. So, if you're traveling about and notice a Vermont stone, please take a photo and either e-mail it to Tom Ledoux at webmaster@vermontcivilwar.org or mail the photo to me, and I will see that Tom gets it. And, if you haven't checked out Tom's web site recently, you should! www.vermontcivilwar.org/

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 June 2010 newsletter is May 31, 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.

Vermont Already Planning Civil War Sesquicentennial

April 12, 2011 will mark the 150th Anniversary of the start of the Civil War, and the Vermont Historical Society (VHS) has already begun leading the statewide planning effort for the Vermont Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration. With educational institutions, state agencies and other nonprofit organizations, VHS will be developing plans for programs that will explore and celebrate [the role of the Green Mountain State](#) in this bloody conflict.

Statewide events, such as an encampment of Civil War reenactors and a major conference, as well as activities that will explore the Civil War stories in communities throughout Vermont are under consideration. The VHS are also working with the Vermont Governor's office to create a Vermont Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission that will coordinate planning and implementation throughout the multi-year commemoration.

The second article in Vermont's 1777 constitution, abolished slavery, making it the first state to do so. As a result of Vermont's abolitionists tendencies, more than 28,100 Vermonters served in Vermont volunteer units and nearly 5,000 others served in other states' units, in the United States Army or the United States Navy. A total of 166 African American Vermonters served out of a population of just 709 in the entire state.

The first military action seen by Vermonters was at the Battle of Big Bethel on June 10, 1861, where a battalion of the 1st Vermont Infantry was engaged. The 1st Vermont Cavalry regiment participated in more than 70 engagements.

Following the Confederate raid on St. Albans on October 19, 1864, Vermont fielded two companies of Frontier Cavalry, who spent six months on the Canadian border to prevent further incursions from Confederate raiders.

Sixty-four Vermonters received the Medal of Honor, including Willie Johnston, the youngest person ever to receive this award.

From the New York History web site:
<http://www.newyorkhistoryblog.com/2009/12/vermont-already-planning-civil-war.html>

"Southern Storm: Sherman's March to the Sea" by Noah Andre Trudeau

A review by Alan D. Brunelle

Here in New England we get to hear our NFL coach Bill Belichick say some pretty simplistic things in his press conferences. After a sloppy win (or loss) you might hear him say something like "It was what it was." Or perhaps discussing an upcoming game with players missing due to injuries by stating "It is what it is." At times while I was reading Trudeau's book on Sherman's march to the sea I started thinking in terms of phrases just like those.

Trudeau splits his book into six sections, but I will review them in four parts. The first part (Trudeau's Part One "Preparation") does a fine job of "setting the table" - he spends about 75 pages providing a background for the decision to make the march after the capture of Atlanta. He goes into fine detail regarding the give-and-take between members of the Union brain trust (Lincoln, Halleck, Grant and Sherman). He also talks about the difficulties in the Confederate chain of command, talking about the decision to let Hood head north for example. Trudeau introduces you to the main players on the march for both sides and provides a great starting point for the rest of the book.

The next two sections of the book (Trudeau's Part Two "Atlanta to Milledgeville, November 15-24" and Part Three "Milledgeville to Millen, November 25-December 4") are presented in the next 275 or so pages. Trudeau sets out to have a sort of travel log for the Union army (primarily) with accounts from the Confederate side sprinkled in as the Union forces reach various points along their route. He uses a tremendous variety and large numbers of snippets from all sorts of primary accounts - letters, diaries, news paper articles, official records and correspondence. That's the good news.

The somewhat tedious side of the ledger, however, is that for the first three weeks Sherman's army basically marched and did a set of things each and every day: Marched (some times over hard landscape), Foraged, Wrecked railroad tracks, Burnt buildings and some times skirmished with (primarily) Confederate cavalry. The first four activities occupied the lion's share of the march, and the reader is subjected to the same account over and over again - day after day. After a while one tends to lose one's place in the book as it is easy to get confused over thinking that you've already read this account - and of course you have.

Sherman's army was (basically) comprised of four infantry corps plus a cavalry division. Each and every day for this part of the book there is a section dedicated to each of the 5 units. And each of the units day after day. So you end up with about 20 days worth of the same accounts of marching, foraging, railroad wrecking and burning of buildings. That comes out to well over 80 examples of each - really, much more because there were typically more than one account per day per unit. Plus: Trudeau sprinkles in the Confederate view of things - so we hear repeated accounts of the devastation wrought by the foragers and building burners from the citizens of Georgia as well.

The defense for Trudeau is quite simple: "It was what it was." That's how the march went. Those are the things that happened each and every day. I should point out that Trudeau very rarely uses the same author for different accounts - he uses new men for almost every single one of them. [The major exception would be one of Sherman's aides - Henry M. Hitchcock. Trudeau has a lot of accounts from Hitchcock - with the twofold purpose of getting a close-in view of Sherman's activities over the march as well as illustrating how Hitchcock morphed over the few weeks: from one who was basically taken aback by some of the inhumanity of the foraging and burning to at the end fully converted over towards Sherman's (so called) total war concept.]

Nonetheless, it does make for a somewhat tedious and repetitive read.

The book certainly picks up steam in the next two sections (Trudeau's Part Four "Millen to Savannah, December 5-10" and Part Five "Savannah, December 11-January 21"). In these 162 or so pages, Sherman's army turned south towards Savannah and the "action" picks up. There are still the standard marching, foraging &c. - but now there is more involved in the strategy and tactics day-to-day. And certainly the detailed description of the siege and taking of Savannah is quite interesting.

The last section (Trudeau's Part Six "Finale") does a very good job of recapping the story, as well as assessing both the real war value achieved from the march, and then scrutinizing how the mythology of the march has grown over the decades since the fall of Savannah. I think Trudeau shines here in providing an even-handed approach to judging things. It's very interesting to see the final tally - and see how really little from a physical standpoint the march accomplished (railroads back up pretty quick, communities back and operation soon after Sherman left). Of course, the psychological and morale aspects of the march are also shown, and those whilst not quite quantifiable certainly were very important in the final outcome of the war.

Some odd-and-ends: I've left out comments on other aspects of the book that I think are quite good. Trudeau really paints a good picture of the confused nature of the Confederate high command - too many chefs, but nobody really in charge. He also provides a lot of detail on Joseph Wheeler's cavalry actions - it's amazing how much they were able to accomplish whilst being so outnumbered by the Union troops. As noted above, there is quite a lot of civilian accounts - so you get a good feel for both sides of the story.

Lastly, I should note one big quibble I do have: the maps are not very good at all. The troops are not labeled, the waterways aren't named, the scale is large. I really didn't find them useful at all - surprising as he has 36 of them included in the book. When I mentioned this on an on-line forum one response was that maps weren't really essential for a work like this - perhaps there is some truth to it, then

why waste close to 36 half pages to them? I would think a few well-detailed maps would have worked better.

Having said all of this, the book really boils down to "It is what it is." The travel log portion of the book is tedious - but that's how the march was. And Trudeau shows the history as honestly as the participants wrote about it. The rest of the book, I think, is just top notch. It provides a very good look at the march as a whole and the author is a very good wordsmith. It's a very easy book to read and learn from. I do recommend it, even given the grueling travel log portion of it.

"Southern Storm: Sherman's March To The Sea" by Noah Andre Trudeau, published by Harper / Perennial, hardcover in 2008, I read the 2009 edition (softcover). ISBN #978-0-06-059867-9. 669 pages with extensive notes, bibliography and index.

(Alan is the treasurer of the NHCWRT. Thanks!)

BOB ALLEN'S MOTHER

Our deepest sympathy to Bob Allen whose mother passed away April 24. Many of you remember Bob as our RT "publicist" and wonderful pianist. Since we've been back at the Hotel Coolidge, I can't help but miss his piano playing.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

THE SOLDIER'S FAITH

[The following are excerpts from an Address Delivered on Memorial Day, May 30, 1895, at a Meeting Called by the Graduating Class of Harvard University. President Theodore Roosevelt's admiration for this speech was a factor in Holmes' nomination to the US Supreme Court. The most quoted line of this speech is "We have shared the incommunicable experience of war; we have felt, we still feel, the passion of life to its top."]

We do not save our traditions, in our country. The regiments whose battle-flags were not large enough to hold the names of the battles they had fought vanished with the surrender of Lee, although their memories inherited would have made heroes for a century. It is the more necessary to learn the lesson afresh from perils newly sought, and perhaps it is not vain for us to tell the new generation what we learned in our day, and what we still believe. That the joy of life is living, is to put out all one's powers as far as they will go; that the measure of power is obstacles overcome; to ride boldly at what is in front of you, be it fence or enemy; to pray, not for comfort, but for combat; to keep the soldier's faith against the doubts of civil life, more besetting and harder to overcome than all the misgivings of the battlefield, and to remember that duty is not to be proved in the evil day, but then to be obeyed unquestioning; to love glory more than the temptations of wallowing ease, but to know that one's final judge and only rival is oneself: with all our failures in act and thought, these things we learned from noble enemies in Virginia or Georgia or on the Mississippi,

thirty years ago; these things we believe to be true.

As for us, our days of combat are over. Our swords are rust. Our guns will thunder no more. The vultures that once wheeled over our heads must be buried with their prey. Whatever of glory must be won in the council or the closet, never again in the field. I do not repine. We have shared the incommunicable experience of war; we have felt, we still feel, the passion of life to its top.

Three years ago died the old colonel of my regiment, the Twentieth Massachusetts (Col. William Raymond Lee). He gave the regiment its soul. No man could falter who heard his "Forward, Twentieth!" I went to his funeral. From a side door of the church a body of little choir-boys came in alike a flight of careless doves. At the same time the doors opened at the front, and up the main aisle advanced his coffin, followed by the few grey heads who stood for the men of the Twentieth, the rank and file whom he had loved, and whom he led for the last time. The church was empty. No one remembered the old man whom we were burying, no one save those next to him, and us. And I said to myself, The Twentieth has shrunk to a skeleton, a ghost, a memory, a forgotten name which we other old men alone keep in our hearts. And then I thought: It is right. It is as the colonel would have it. This also is part of the soldier's faith: Having known great things, to be content with silence. Just then there fell into my hands a little song sung by a warlike people on the Danube, which seemed to me fit for a soldier's last word, another song of the sword, but a song of the sword in its scabbard, a song of oblivion and peace.

A soldier has been buried on the battlefield.

And when the wind in the tree-tops roared,
The soldier asked from the deep dark grave:
"Did the banner flutter then?"

"Not so, my hero," the wind replied.
"The fight is done, but the banner won,
Thy comrades of old have borne it hence,
Have borne it in triumph hence."
Then the soldier spake from the deep dark grave:
"I am content."

Then he heareth the lovers laughing pass,
and the soldier asks once more:
"Are these not the voices of them that love,
That love--and remember me?"
"Not so, my hero," the lovers say,
"We are those that remember not;
For the spring has come and the earth has smiled,
And the dead must be forgot."
Then the soldier spake from the deep dark grave:
"I am content."

Dedication of the Lincoln Memorial

President Lincoln's only surviving son was a special guest at the May 30, 1922 dedication ceremony for the Lincoln Memorial, receiving an ovation when he reached his seat. Robert Todd Lincoln did not deliver remarks but listened with great interest as other speakers paid tribute to his father. Robert

took great interest in the memorial as it emerged within Potomac Park and frequently requested that his driver pass the site so that he could observe the progress; he even secured permission once to visit the site in the midst of ongoing construction.

Born in Springfield, Illinois in 1843, Robert was the eldest of the four Lincoln sons. He was graduated from Harvard College, and then served briefly with Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, being present at General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House. Robert went on to have a successful career as a lawyer and businessman, and served as Secretary of War under Presidents James Garfield and Chester Arthur. During Benjamin Harrison's administration, Robert served as Minister to Great Britain. He died at his home in Vermont (Hildene) in 1926 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery within sight of his father's memorial.

(Above from National Park Service web site:
<http://www.nps.gov/linc/historyculture/lincoln-memorial>

On May 15, 1864, General John C. Breckenridge drafts some 200 students from the Virginia Military Institute for his successful fight at New Market, Virginia. Over a quarter of the students are casualties.

Green Mountain Civil War Round Table

**P.O. Box 1245
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**Green Mountain Civil War Round Table
March 2010— March 2011 Membership Rates**

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Student \$10.00 (includes newsletter)

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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.

