



The Camp Griffin Gazette

News and Information from the Green Mountain Civil War Round Table

Vol. XXIV, No. 5 – May 2017

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

AND DON'T FORGET: WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

**“FRATERNITY - CHARITY - LOYALTY IN
VERMONT: THE VERMONT WOMEN'S
RELIEF CORP IN VT 1880s AND 1890s”**

CHRISTINE SMITH

TUESDAY, May 9, 2017

BUGBEE SENIOR CENTER

WHITE RIVER JCT., VT

Menu:

**Mixed Green Salad w/Maple Balsamic
Vinaigrette
Eggplant Parmesan
Soft Rolls w/whipped butter
Dessert**

CHRISTINE SMITH

Christine Smith was a History teacher at Spaulding High School in Vermont for 17 years teaching U.S. History, VT History, Women's History and Barre History. She has a Master's Degree in Early American Women's History and Vermont Women's History. As a women's historian, she always looks at history through the lens of the female experience. She discovered the Women's Relief Corps while in grad school and has been fascinated by the impact this organization had on our National memory of the Civil War. After needing a change, but still wanting to impact the lives of students, Christine is currently the Library Media Specialist at Spaulding High School in Barre, VT and lives in Montpelier with her partner Bob, their two cats and two dogs. She is also the Mom of a 23-year-old boy named Jesse, a Mom to her nieces Mariah and Retta in Colorado and the Step Mom to four girls Maia, Willow, Maggie, and Zoe.

6:00-6:15 Social Hour

6:15 Buffet Dinner

6:45 Business Meeting

7:00 Program, followed by discussion and book raffle
Adjournment

Guaranteed dinner reservations must be made by 12 Noon,
**May 8. Cost per person for the meal is \$12.00. For
reservations please contact Gail Blake at**

auntis@comcast.net or 802-296-2919.

Cost for the meeting only for members is \$2.00, and for
non-members \$5.00.

**PLEASE LET GINNY OR GAIL KNOW IF YOU
WOULD BE WILLING TO BRING DESSERT.
EITHER E-MAIL OR CALL. GAIL: 802-296-
2919 –auntis@comcast.net - GINNY: 603-
542-4664 – lewandginny1863@comcast.net**

2017 Program Schedule

June 13: Tom Ledoux – Nurses from Vermont
September 12: Ed Chamberlain
October 10: Hunter Lesser

2018

June: Will Greene

Other Round Table Meetings and Happenings

May 5 – A Visit with Abraham Lincoln – 1:00 PM - Earl M. Bourdon Centre, 67 Maple Avenue, Claremont, NH - **Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by Steve Wood**, begins this program by recounting his early life and ends with a reading of the "Gettysburg Address." Along the way he comments on the debates with Stephen Douglas, his run for the presidency, and the Civil War. Contact: Larry Converse – 603-542-2180

May 17 - NEKCWRT - Rob Grandchamp – “**Vermonters in Civil War.**” 6 P.M. at the Eastside Restaurant, Newport, Vermont.

May 19 – CWRT of NH – 7:15 P.M. – Epping Town Hall, 157 Main St., Epping, NH - ~ **Matthew Langdon Cost** - "**Joshua Chamberlain and the Civil War: At Every Hazard**"

May 28 – 2:00 PM – Bridgewater Historical Society – **Vermont and the Civil War** - From Cedar Creek to Gettysburg, Vermonters were central to the Union cause. Vermont author and Civil War historian **Howard Coffin** addresses the Vermont contribution to the Civil War. 12N. Bridgewater Road, Bridgewater, VT - 802-672-3745 for more information

CWRT CONFERENCE

Editor's note: The following was in the April 2017 newsletter of the Capital District (Albany, NY) Civil War Round Table, written by Matt George. Perhaps some of our members would like to attend?

The weekend of September 15-18 will see the initial meeting (on the 16th) of a nationwide CWRT Conference in Centerville, Virginia. The hosts will be the Bull Run CWRT, the Brunswick, NC CWRT, the CWRT of Scottsdale, Arizona, and the Puget Sound CWRT. Speakers include Matt Borowick of the Civil War News and Mike Movius of the Puget Sound CWRT (State of Washington). Topics include: Best practices in membership recruitment, governing your RT effectively, techniques in raising and having fun in the process, and governing your organization effectively.

Over the past several years at least 64 RTs across the nation have closed their doors. These tragic closures were often caused by insufficient membership, a poor sustaining organizational structure, poor programming, and

insufficient funding. Often it has been a combination of these problems. This Conference will attempt to help the remaining RTs across the country avoid these problems by listening to how the leaders of successful RTs have addressed these issues.

The Brunswick CWRT in North Carolina has 1,185 members. The Scottsdale CWRT in Arizona has hundreds.

WORLD WAR I GROUP

This group meets monthly on the 4th Monday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Café next to the Hotel Coolidge. If you want to come or want more information, contact Peter Sinclair [802-584-3280] or David Curtin [802-633-2536.]

NOTES FROM OUR APRIL MEETING

We had 35 for dinner and another 6 people for just the meeting.

Thank you to Ruth, Brian, and Ed for bringing dessert!

Chris Army, LBG at Gettysburg, gave a very good presentation on JEB Stuart to help the group heading down for the annual RT Trip in May to better understand where he was and why.

Raffle winners were Whitney Maxfield, Bob Coburn, Ruth Perrinez, Peter Sinclair, Lu Johnson, John Mudge, Jim Bacon, and Ed Hall.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to two new members: Frank Bonnett from East Thetford, VT, and Steve Driscoll from Lebanon, NH.

THANK YOU

On behalf of my family I would like to express our thanks for the many cards and messages of support we received following Dad's passing. My parents enjoyed getting to know many of you at the meetings they attended and on the two trips they took with us. Thank you all so much! Gail

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance: \$2524.55

March Expenses:

Maple Street Catering: \$276.15

Speaker: \$138 (two meals, mileage, and maple syrup)

April Expenses:

Maple Street Catering: \$303.50

Speaker: \$12 (meal)

March and April deposits: \$1482 (dues, raffle, meals, donations)

Petty Cash: \$142

Ending Balance: \$3418.90

CHARGE OF THE 1st VERMONT BRIGADE

(Composed by a member of the Second Regiment of Vermont Volunteers)

The Sabbath morn dawned bright and clear upon
the third of May,
As underneath St. Mary's heights the Corps of
Sedgwick lay;
A silence, ominous and deep was on the hillside
then,
Though on the top and at the foot, lay hordes of
hostile men.

The thunder of the rebel guns the solemn stillness
broke,
And echo answered echo back, as one by one they
awoke;
But soon our rifled Parrotts spoke in tones we knew
so well,
And poured on the rebel hordes a refulgent storm
of shell.

In quick response our well served guns, their
deadly missiles poured,
Which through the scarp and parapet of their
entrenchments bored;
But grape and shell and solid shot though showered
forth like rain,
To drive the gray backs from their holes proved
impotent and vain.

Green Mountain Boys! Ye heroes of a dozen bloody
fights!
The call is now for men who dare to scale the dizzy
heights –
And see! Advancing on the plain their serried lines
appear
Unbroken by the storm of shell, unparalyzed by
fear.

The twenty-sixth New Jersey, then attached to our
brigade,
Supported by the Second's boys, a master stroke
essayed;
But engaging the [] miry bog that stretched across
the way,
They broke in wild confusion, and went hopelessly
astray.

Then came the long-ried Second up, and passed
them on the run,
(Vermont might well be proud, that day, of every
martial son),
With volley answered volley, as they climbed the
shelving track,
And shouting forth their battle cry, they drove the
rebels back.

Upon our right the 'Light Brigade' dismay and
carnage spread,

Far on the left our own 'brave Brooks' his troops
triumphant led;
Each proudly envious of each, were deeds of valor
done.
And on the crest laid down to rest, St. Mary's
Heights were won.

All honor to the brave who fell, nor shed their blood
in vain,
They rested with us, but alas! No more to rise
again;
By Rappahannock's torrid stream their verdant
graves were made,
The dying shed new luster on the "Old Vermont
Brigade."

Memorial Day Oliver Wendell Holmes

"Every year—in the full tide of spring, at the height of the
symphony of flowers and love and life—there comes a
pause, and through the silence we hear the lonely pipe of
death. Year after year lovers wondering under the apple
boughs and through the clover and deep grass are surprised
with sudden tears as they see black veiled figures stealing
through the morning to a soldier's grave. Year after year the
comrades of the dead follow with public honor, procession
and commemorative flags and funeral march—honor and
grief from us who stand almost alone, and have seen the
best and noblest of our generation pass away."

Robert Lincoln

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 in 1926 and was buried in
Arlington National Cemetery within sight of his father's
memorial.

*On May 16, 1864, in a rare incidence of the South
outnumbering their Northern opponents, General
Pierre Beauregard forces General Benjamin Butler
out of Drewry's Bluff, Virginia.*

**Farmer's Cabinet , Amherst, New Hampshire -
May 5, 1864**

The following is an extract of a letter received last week, from a member of the 2d N.H. Regiment at Yorktown, Va.:
We had a little change yesterday from the regular routine of camp life, in the shape of a military execution. Two men of our regiment were shot for desertion. The men behaved very well and everything passed off quietly. There were 19 shots fired, every one of which took effect; one received ten, the other nine balls. They died instantly. It made some of the men look pretty blue, particularly some of the new men, a great many of whom had probably made up their minds to go the first opportunity—but I guess they will not try it now.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

It's that time again! Membership runs from March through February. When completing the membership form, please remember to include your email address. We are striving to send as many newsletters as possible by email to save on printing and mailing expenses. Also, sending by email helps us to be able to get additional information that may come up between meetings to you quickly. Dues have not changed. Please either bring your dues to the May meeting or mail them to Gail Blake, 55 Orrizonto Road, White River Jct., VT 05001

**Green Mountain Civil War Round Table
P.O. Box 982
White River Junction, VT 05001**

**Green Mountain Civil War Round Table
March 2017— March 2018 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 ____

Please make checks payable to: Green Mountain Civil War Round Table