



The Camp Griffin Gazette

News and Information from the Green Mountain Civil War Round Table

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ED LILLEY

ROUND TABLE MEMBER

“DAMN THE TORPEDOES!

BATTLE OF MOBILE BAY”

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2009

THE BLACK ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

ROUTE 4

QUECHEE, VERMONT

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

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
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The deadline for the December 2009 newsletter is November 23, 2009.

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., Nov. 8, 2009. **Cost per person for the buffet dinner 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

“DAMN THE TORPEDOES!
BATTLE OF MOBILE BAY”

Ed Lilley

Edward Lilley is Professor Emeritus Harvard University and formerly Associate Director of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge. After receiving his PhD at Harvard in 1954, Ed began his research career at the United States Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D. C. He held a faculty appointment at Yale and then forty years at Harvard until his retirement in 1996. At Harvard he taught courses in astrophysics and nuclear weapons and directed staff and graduate student research. Over the decades he served on numerous scientific advisory panels for the DOD, NASA and NSF. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the International Academy of Astronautics. During the Kennedy Administration he served on the

President's Scientific Advisory Panel that analyzed and recommended new national defense systems.

Ed will review the entire campaign to take Mobile, an eight month, joint army-navy operation that included four amphibious landings. Mobile was not seized by Union forces until three days after Lee surrendered to Grant. During the naval Battle of Mobile Bay, Admiral Farragut presumably said, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" What did Farragut actually say? Ed will examine the eye-witness accounts.

**2009-2010 Program Schedule
Program Chair: Peter Sinclair**

**Dec. 8 Michelle Arnosky Sherburne –
“Mark Wheeler of the 1st Vermont
Cavalry at Andersonville” with
slides of present day
Andersonville from Lew Gage**

2010 Program Schedule

- Jan. 9 (Saturday meeting)
Ken Borie – Surgeon General
Court Martial**
- Feb. 13 (Saturday meeting)
Kate Larson – “The Assassin’s
Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the
Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln.”**
- 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”**

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/

Nov. 12 – 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

Nov. – NEKCWRT – The Cogan Family Fife & Drum. For more information, contact Joan Huguenin at PoohBahToo@hotmail.com or 802-754-6402.

Nov. 13– NHCWRT – Michael Pierson of U. Mass. - Lowell – to speak on his book: “Mutiny at Fort Jackson: The Untold Story of the Fall of New Orleans.” Please check out their web site for more information: www.cwrt-nh.org/

November 14– New Hampshire Remembrance Day

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and Auxiliary to SUVCW will sponsor Remembrance Day 2009 at 11 a.m., Saturday November 14th at New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park St., Concord, NH.

This will be in remembrance of the 146th anniversary of the dedication of the National Cemetery at the Gettysburg Battlefield, at which President Abraham Lincoln delivered his famed "Gettysburg Address." The featured speaker that day was the Right Honorable Edward Everett.

Jim Cooke will portray Edward Everett, the 19th Century U.S. Senator, Secretary of State, Harvard professor, Unitarian minister, and ardent supporter of the Union cause during the Civil War in a living history presentation. His program is entitled “Gettysburg Addressed.”

Free admission and open to the public. A light luncheon will be included.

Nov. 19 – Joshua Chamberlain CWRT, Brunswick, ME –Union General Benjamin "the Beast" Butler is the general we all love to hate... are we too harsh?

UMass/Lowell professor **Michael Pierson** will tell the story of Ben Butler in New Orleans in the spring of 1862. Michael is the author of "The Mutiny of Fort Jackson: The Untold Story of the Fall of New Orleans." For more information check their web site at:

<http://community.curtislibrary.com/chamberlaincwrwrt>

Welcome new member

**Pat Wheatly of
Cornish, NH!**

And

Welcome Back

**John Dumville
South Royalton, VT**

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.newsenglandviavermont.com

(From the June 2009 Civil War News.)

2010 GMCWRT BATTLEFIELD JOURNEY

Plans are in the works for our 2010 Journey, dates are April 29-May 4, 2010, focus destination is Lexington, VA.

We will journey to Carlisle, PA and visit the Carlisle Military Barracks, then travel to Lexington to visit VMI, New Market Battlefield, Stonewall Jackson's home, Washington and Lee Chapel and more. On our way home we will overnight in Gettysburg and enjoy a quick visit. Our good friend, Barbara Watts, and her husband, Mike, are relocating to the Lexington area, and Barb has graciously agreed to be our guide in Lexington. Pricing is not yet set, but will include RT motorcoach transportation from WRJct, five nights lodging, most meals, driver gratuity, all admission and guide fees, trip packet, and onboard refreshments. For more information contact Gail Blake, 802-296-2919 or email her at auntis@comcast.net. Hope you can join us!

NEW LINCOLN EXHIBIT OPENED TO THE PUBLIC IN SEPTEMBER

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.

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October Round Table Meeting

Our October meeting was attended by 31 people. Lew Gage took over for Jack Anderson who was not able to attend.

Judi Holm gave us the sad news that members Bob and JoAnn Merriam have moved to Florida full-time! We wish them well, but will miss them.

Joan Tomasi mentioned that she misses Dave Bernard’s book reports, and then proceeded to give a report on the book “*March*” written by Geraldine Brooks. This book is a retelling of Louisa May Alcott’s classic “*Little Women*” from the point of view of Mr. March, the absent father. This book won the Pulitzer prize for Fiction in 2006.

Alice Evans attended the burial ceremonies of the Civil War soldier’s remains from the battlefield at Antietam to

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.

Saratoga, New York. Experts now think this soldier was 19 or 20 when he died. He would have been with one of the 16 New York state regiments who fought at Antietam. Alice also attended the ceremonies at Dam No. 1, Newport News, Virginia. Hopefully we will have a couple of photos in the December Camp Griffin Gazette.

Doug Decato brought in a Reader's Digest that had the same article as what we had in our October newsletter entitled "VT Soldier Owed His Life to Southern Heroine" by Mark Bushnell. He was quite surprised!

Who was the only field grade officer of a Vermont regiment court martialed at Cedar Creek? Lt. Col. Chandler from the 10th Vermont. If anyone has more information, please let Dave Mayhew know at the next RT meeting.

Lew welcomed our newest member, Pat Wheatley, from Cornish, NH.

Peter Sinclair mentioned that our December meeting will have Michelle Arnosky Sherburne who will speak about Mark Wheeler from the 1st Vermont Cavalry, who was captured and imprisoned at Andersonville, and Lew Gage who will do a short slide program on what Andersonville Prison and town looks like today. There will also be tables set up for folks to bring Civil War artifacts. Greg Cassidy will be bringing some of his items for us to see.

Peter Sinclair welcomed back our guest speaker for the evening, Phil Lechak, Licensed Battlefield Guide from Gettysburg, who spoke about "The New Mexico Campaign of 1862, or the Battle of Glorietta," also known as the "Gettysburg of the West." His program was very well received.

Our book raffle was won by Guy DeStefano, Jeanette Cook, Peter Sinclair, Ed Lilley, and Dave Mayhew.

In Memory of Our Ancestors Who Served in the Civil War

Albion K. Goodwin

Co. I. – 4th NH

Jack Anderson's great-great grandfather

Edwin Ruthvin Mayo

Sergeant

Co. B – 21st ME

Jack Anderson's great-great grandfather

Orice Oakes

Co. I – 1st Vermont Cavalry

Jack Anderson's great-great grandfather

Sanford M. Whitney

Corporal

Co. B – 12th Vermont

Gail Blake's great-great-grandfather

Greenbush Strong

Private

Co. B – 12th Vermont

Gail Blake's great-great-uncle

Benjamin Franklin Strong

Private – promoted to Artificer

Co. H – 11th Vermont

(1st Regt. Heavy Artillery)

Died June 9, 1864 of wounds suffered at Cold Harbor

Gail Blake's great-great-uncle

William J. Strong

Private

Co. H – 11th Vermont

(1st Regt. Heavy Artillery)

Transferred to

Veteran's Reserve Corps

March 1864

Gail Blake's great-great-uncle

Henry B. Strong

Private

Co. H – 11th Vermont

(1st Regt. Heavy Artillery)

Gail Blake's great-great-uncle

James Swartwood

Private

Co. G – 61st NY Infantry

Battery A – 4th Light Artillery – Regular Army

George Butts' great-grandfather

(More about George's great-grandfather in a future issue)

Wiley Wilkinson

Private

Co. K-17th NC

Greg Cassidy's great-uncle

Wiley was 18 when he enlisted on May 22, 1861. He died of pneumonia at Garysburg, NC on July 11, 1861.

Eli Haskett

Private

Co. H – 9th Iowa

Dr. David Cross's

Great-grandfather

John Bryce Faris

Private

Co. G-47th Illinois

Wounded and missing since the

Battle of Corinth, MS

October 3, 1863

Dr. David Cross's great-uncle

Peter Quinn

Private
Co. F - 5th NH Regiment
Born in Ireland
Lived in Stowe, VT, at the time of the Civil War
Enlisted: August 1863
Captured at Cold Harbor; survived Andersonville,
Florence, Millen, and other Rebel prisons; paroled in
late November, 1864; hospitalized; returned to the
5th New Hampshire in early March 1865; participated
in the final stages of the Petersburg siege and
Appomattox Campaign.
Post Civil War: Carriage painter in Stowe, VT
Buried in the Riverbend Cemetery, Stowe, VT
David Curtin's great-great grandfather

James L. Farnham

1st Lieutenant
Co. D – 12th Vermont
Euclid Farnham's great-grandfather

George Durkee

Private
Co. D – 12th Vermont
Later Co. D – 9th Vermont
Euclid Farnham's great-grandfather

Dexter T. Larkin

Private
Second Battery Light Artillery
Vermont
Euclid Farnham's great-grandfather

Daniel Kitchel

Corporal
Co. C – 8th Indiana Infantry
Jim Fouts' great-grandfather

William C. Oakes

Private
Co. B – 6th CT
Ginny Gage's great-great grandfather

Robert Farvour

Private
Co. C – 17th CT
Ginny Gage's great-uncle

Milton Gage

Private
Co. A – 59th New York
Lew Gage's great-uncle

Benjamin S. White

Sergeant
Co. C – 17th CT
Lew Gage's great-great grandfather

Augustus Bronson

Sergeant
Co. C – 17th CT
Died of wounds received at Gettysburg
July 5, 1863
Lew Gage's great-cousin

Orrin L. Bronson

Private
Co. C – 17th CT
Lew Gage's great-cousin

Joshua Gage

Private
Co. B – 136th New York
Died of typhoid fever
in Washington, DC, July 23, 1863
Lew Gage's great-great uncle

Elias Gage

Private
Co. B – 136th New York
Killed in Action at Gettysburg July 2, 1863
Buried in the Gettysburg National Cemetery
Lew Gage's great-great uncle

Edwin B. Gage

Private
Co. A – 11th CT
Lew Gage's great-uncle

George Sears

Corporal
Co. C – 17th CT
Lew Gage's great-great-great grandfather

William Serrine

1st Lieutenant
Co. K – 4th Georgia
Sumpter County Guards
Lew Gage's great-great uncle

Alvin Woodruff

Private – Promoted to Corporal June 20, 1864
Co. H – 10th Vermont
Died of disease September 20, 1864
Dewey Jones' ancestor

George B. Dodge

Color Sergeant
Co. E – 12th CT Infantry
Whitney Maxfield's great-cousin

Ira Lewis Dodge

Private
Co. B – 114th New York Infantry
Whitney Maxfield's great-great cousin

Charles L. Dodge
Private
8th MA Infantry
Retired Colonel 1895
Whitney Maxfield's great-cousin

John T. Dodge
23rd MA Infantry
Whitney Maxfield's great-cousin

James G. C. Dodge
Private – Brevated Lt. Colonel
19th MA Infantry
61st MA Infantry
Whitney Maxfield's great-cousin

Levi A. Trask
9th Corps
Whitney Maxfield's great-cousin

John W. Bacon
Private
Co. E – 3rd Vermont
Co. E – 8th VT
Whitney Maxfield's great-cousin

Hampton Maxfield
Sergeant
Co. H – 2nd Vermont
Whitney Maxfield's great-great cousin

George Mason Goforth
Private
Co. H – 22nd Iowa Vol. Inf.
Tom McKenna

John White
Private
Co. H – 16th Vermont
Bob Merriam's great-great grandfather

Sidney Kirk Richardson
Private
Co. A – 1st NH Heavy Artillery
1st NH Heavy Artillery did provost duty in
fortifications around Washington, D.C., and finally at
Ft. Constitution, NH
Nancy Miville's great-grandfather

Aaron W. Willey
Corporal
Co. I – 15th Vermont
Survived the 9 months duty and lived until 1917. He
went to the 50th Reunion at Gettysburg.
Dick Simpson's great-grandfather

James T. Simpson
Private
Co. G – 3rd Vermont
Killed at the Bloody Angle, Spottsylvania Court House
May 12, 1864. (Shot to pieces; never came home.)
Dick Simpson's great-uncle

Horatio Gates Sanford
Private
Co. A – 124th IL Infantry
Died of his wounds near
Vicksburg in 1864
Buried at the Vicksburg National Cemetery
Susan Sanford Sellew Stacy's
Great-great uncle

Philander Alonzo Streeter
Private
Co. C – 2nd Vermont
Don Streeter's great-grandfather

Daniel Green Streeter
Private
(younger brother of Philander above)
Co. E – 11th Vermont
(later redesignated the 1st Vermont Heavy Artillery)
later transferred to Co. L
Don Streeter's great-grand uncle

Joseph E. Huse
Private
Promoted to Corporal June 21, 1865
Co. E – 3rd Vermont
Andy Ward's great-great grandfather

James Madison Jackson, Jr.
Sergeant
Co. D – 5th Vermont
Andy Ward's great-great uncle

Charles Ward
Master Sergeant
32nd MA Infantry
Mortally wounded at Gettysburg
Andy Ward's ancestor

Alfred H. Knowles
2nd Lieutenant
Co. A – 54th MA
Steve Wood's great-great grandfather

James T. Outterson
Captain
Co. G – 184th New York
Steve Wood's great-great grandfather

*No rumour of the foe's advance
Now swells upon the wind;
No troubled thought at midnight
haunts
Of loved ones left behind.
No vision of the morrow's strife
The warrior's dream alarms;
No braying horn, nor screaming fife,
At dawn shall call to arms.*

The above is from Theodore O'Hara's *The Bivouac of the Dead* which was written in 1847 to honor American dead at the Battle of Buena Vista, fought during the War with Mexico.

**Corporal Lafayette Hunting
49th New York Volunteers
By: Richard E. Clem**

George T. Stevens, 6th Corps surgeon with the Army of the Potomac, wrote after the war: "Under a canopy of redbud and dogwood, the 6th Corps marched into the Wilderness – May 4th 1864." This scene of natural and military beauty would soon be turned into one of bloody human slaughter. In fighting so fierce that a 22-inch oak tree was shot in half by small arms fire, Cpl. Lafayette Hunting, 49th New York Volunteers, gave his all to preserve the Union. The Wilderness Campaign would be his last.

On October 24th 1980, while using a metal detector in an old cornfield several miles south of Hagerstown, Maryland, I dug up what most relic hunters only dream of finding: a Civil War identification disc. About the size of a quarter, retaining 50% original gold plate, the brass disc is inscribed: "Cpl. L. Hunting / Co. I / 49th Reg. / NY Vols. / Pembroke NY." The back bears the legend: "Fought In Battles / 1861, 2 & 3 United States / Antietam / Williamsburg / 7 Days Fighting Before Richmond / Fredericksburg 1 & 2 / South Mountain / Mechanicsville / Bull Run 2nd"

After discovering one of these historical gems personally inscribed to a soldier who had fought in the conflict, questions naturally surface: Did he survive the war? Where was he buried? Years of research at state and national archives produced extensive material on L. Hunting – this soldier from the past. Ads placed in various Civil War publications "searching for any information on Cpl. Hunting" made it possible to contact Hunting descendants from New York to the West Coast.

Lafayette Hunting was born in 1836, in Monroe County, New York. In 1845, he moved with his family to Pembroke, Genesee County, just northeast of Buffalo. An 1850 census for Genesee County shows living in the Sidney and Sally Hunting household seven children including: Mary, Asa, Lafayette, Sidney Jr., Alva, Lydia and Sarah. An older daughter, Laura, had married a year earlier – February 23rd 1849 – to a Robert Swift and left home.

With the outbreak of civil war, in August 1861, 25-year-old Lafayette and his 18-year-old brother, Alva, enlisted at Forestville in the 49th New York Regiment - both mustered in as privates in Company I. Enlistment records describe Lafayette as being of "German decent – blue eyes – blonde hair – 5 foot-10 inches tall." Similar, the younger brother was listed as "5 foot-10 inches tall – blue eyes – light hair." Unfortunately, Alva's military career was cut short suddenly by diphtheria. He died September 16th 1862, at Patterson Park Hospital in Baltimore. The next day – September 17th 1862 – as Lafayette was fighting Confederate forces around Dunker Church during the "bloodiest day of the war" at Antietam, Alva was being buried in Loudon Park Cemetery in Baltimore. Of course, the surviving Hunting had no knowledge of his brother's death or burial.

As stamped on the ID disc, Lafayette Hunting fought in every major engagement of 1862 with the 6th Corps attached to the Army of the Potomac. On November 26th, 1862, he was promoted to the rank of corporal. Fought May 3rd 1863, the last battle to take place as listed on the tag was 2nd Fredericksburg. This indicates Corporal Hunting had purchased his keepsake in May or June 1863. There was no official ID or called in the military "dog tags" during the Civil War. This type of war medal was sold and inscribed by enterprising sutlers that followed the armies competing for the soldier's \$13-a-month pay. More of a patriotic nature, they were normally bought for 25 cents a pair – one being sent home to wife or sweetheart, the second carried by the soldier.

Regarding the Gettysburg Campaign – July 1863 – the 49th Regimental History records: "The 6th Corps marched nearly all night, July 1st, and most of the day of July 2nd. They arrived on the battlefield at about 5 P.M. of the 2nd day, having marched from 35 to 37 miles over hot, dusty roads, and were well nigh exhausted." Cpl. Hunting saw little action at Gettysburg, the 49th NY being held in reserve, yet it was after the decisive Union victory he lost his ID disc in Washington County, Maryland. It was here the Army of the Potomac paralleled the retreating Army of Northern Virginia nervously, anxiously waiting for the flooded Potomac River to recede for a safe crossing to Southern territory. The open field the ID tag was found remains as it was in 1863, but like other Civil War sites, the threat of destruction from development exists on the horizon.

To escape boredom routine of winter camp life, soldiers took advantage of the time to keep in touch with folks back home. In a letter from Brandy Station, Virginia, dated November 21st 1863, the New York soldier wrote to his family: "Dear Parents, It has been a long time since you wrote to me – as if you have forgotten me entirely. A few days ago I got a letter from Laura. That picture is yours mother is it not. I am much pleased with it. I shall try to keep it as long as I can. Today is Saturday it has been raining all day."

The Hunting note continued revealing respect for "Uncle John" Sedwick: "Our Corps (6th Corps) was reviewed yesterday by General Sedwick our own corps general. He is a good and brave man – true to his country and cause. He

goes in with energy and faith that he can whip the cursed Rebels and he can to.”

Like so many Northern soldiers, Lafayette had nothing good to say about Washington politicians, but high praise for President Lincoln: “If old Halleck was out here I could shoot him with a good will. He is a traitor to the heart. So is over half of those representatives and congressmen. But we trust and believe Old Abe is alright. He is sound but has so many working against him. Father if you send those boots please direct in this way to the 6th Corps, company I, 49th Regt. NY Vols, Washington, D. C. This is all so goodbye from your son. . . Lafayette Hunting.”

The correspondence ends with an “afterthought” of bitterness directed towards an 18-year-old sister, giving evidence of loneliness found in a homesick heart: “Sarah – I was glad to know you are well. You spoke of exchanging an old friend for a new one. I think that is what you have done. You do not seem to write to me as if you cared anything about me. If you do not take a little more pain and write oftener you will look a good while before you hear from me again. I can not do all the writing. My health is good. You must write soon – Your Brother Lafayette.” I received from Michigan a copy of this original hand-written letter from a great-great-grandson of Laura Hunting Swift – Lafayette’s oldest sister. On December 16th 1863, a little over a month after mailing this letter, Lafayette re-enlisted as a veteran in the 49th NY Infantry at Brandy Station, Virginia.

(To be continued...)

Green Mountain Civil War Round Table

P.O. Box 1245

White River Jct.,VT 05001



Lafayette Hunting – 49th New York Regiment

Ezra J. Warner of Waterbury, CT, patented the first can opener in 1858. The device resembled a bent bayonet and was used by the U.S. military during the Civil War.

Happy Thanksgiving!

