



# FIRST CALL

JOSHUA L. CHAMBERLAIN  
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



April 2017

Vol XXXII, No 9

**Thurs April 13**

## **Matthew Cost: Joshua Chamberlain and the Civil War: At Every Hazard**

Matthew has written a historical novel about one of the Civil War's genuine heroes, a college professor with no formal military training who, together with a small company of men, turned the tide of the battle and the war with a bayonet charge at Gettysburg. This was not the end of the professor's exploits, however, and by war's end, he was so respected that Ulysses S. Grant chose Chamberlain to accept the South's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia.

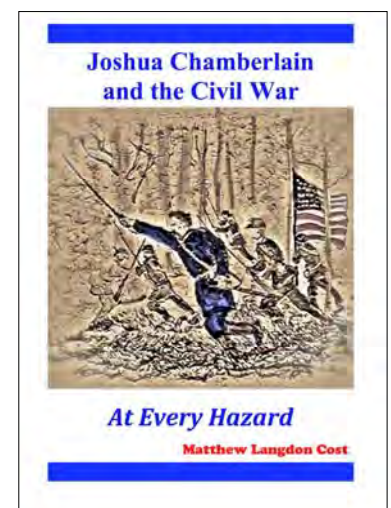
The novel traces his evolution from an arrogant, overbearing professor to unwitting and unlikely hero and leader of men. Interwoven are subplots including the coming of age of his young orphaned aide, a complicated marriage, and of course, lots of rousing battle scenes.

The story begins with a ferocious battle scene that orphans fourteen-year-old Emmett Collins. Following the last instructions of his father, Emmett shows up on Chamberlain's doorstep in Brunswick, Maine, where he joins Chamberlain and the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine as they embark for war in the late summer of 1862. He grows from a boy into a man over the next three years as he accompanies Chamberlain on his rise through the ranks to Major General and recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Quoting from the book's dust jacket:

"General, you have the soul of the lion and the heart of the woman"

*As he galloped down the road, Chamberlain suddenly realized that he was completely covered in blood, as was his horse. Its coppery scent seemed to tinge*



*the dreamlike scene before him. He could somehow see the men following behind him, careening crazily into a horde of gray uniforms. As he watched the scene unfold below as if from the perspective of a hawk floating on the wind in the sky, he saw himself between the two lines, one gray and one blue. He was barely recognizable, every piece of civilized homo sapiens stripped away, a single consummate rage driving him forward, a keening emanating from a mouth whose lips were laced tightly back over the teeth.*

Matthew Langdon Cost graduated with a B.A. in history from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Right after graduation he wrote a yet unpublished historical novel about the Cuban Revolution of 1953-1959.

He has since published two mystery novels, *Mainely Power* and *Mainely Fear*. The Maine Sunday Telegram compared Cost to Robert Parker and gave rave reviews of these two novels. In 2007, after taking a two-week class on teaching biography in the classroom, Cost decided to return to historical fiction, choosing Joshua Chamberlain and the Civil War as his topic. Eight years later, his historical novel, *Joshua Chamberlain and the Civil War: At Every Hazard*, was published in April of 2015.

The novel has been getting extremely good reviews from national publications such as “KIRKUS REVIEW” (<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/matthew-cost/joshua-chamberlain-and-civil-war/>) and the “Civil War News”.



Cost was a business owner for ten years in Brunswick, Maine. His ventures included a video store, a fitness club, and a bookstore. He was then a middle school social studies teacher for ten years, and has now dedicated himself to life as a writer.

Currently, Cost is promoting his novel, *Joshua Chamberlain and the Civil War: At Every Hazard*. He has a full slate of presentations, readings, and book signings lined up. Venues include libraries such as the *Camden Public Library* and Civil War Round Tables such as the one of *Greater Boston*.

JLC CWRT meetings are the second Thursday of each month:

7:00 pm Morrell Room  
Curtis Memorial Library  
23 Pleasant St, Brunswick ME

**Weather Cancellations:**

Channels 6, 8, 13

*If the Library closes due to a storm, the meeting will be cancelled.  
Members will receive an email notification of cancellation from the  
CWRT Secretary.*

# News from Headquarters

From the President – Dan Cunningham

The Board of Trustees and committee members met on April 2. At this meeting we discussed where we are financially and our current membership. We have approximately \$4250, which is \$1500 more than what we had at this time last year. Some of this is due to the fundraising efforts we've had this past year along with a small increase in membership. Because of the improved financial position Bill Attick has more flexibility in reaching out to a greater variety of speakers for the upcoming year.



We also decided we would have refreshments at our June meeting, similar to last year. This will take the place of the banquet, which we had for many years. While the banquets were fun, they were also expensive, and we found that less than half our members were attending. By having light refreshments we can do something to celebrate the conclusion of our year and make the meeting available to all our members. In addition, each of the Board members has volunteered to bring the refreshments so there will be no cost to the CWRT.

**Chamberlain Days** will occur on the second weekend of August this year. While the Pejepscot Historical Society is currently working on a schedule for that weekend, we do know that the 3rd Maine Regiment will do an encampment on **Saturday, August 12**. The encampment will give people a chance to visit and talk to the reenactors. In addition, the 3rd Maine will be demonstrating different marching and firing formations, the manual of arms, and the fife and drum corps will be playing period music throughout the day. Muskets will be fired during the firing formations.

The Chamberlain CWRT is planning to have a table at Chamberlain Days on the Brunswick Mall on August 12, with information about our Round Table. We'll also be selling some of the surplus of books we have. **If any of you would like to help us with this event or other events, please plan to attend a short meeting after our April speaker is finished.** You can talk with our Board members and see how you might be able to help us. We currently have enough volunteers to fill our Board positions for 2017/2018, but we can always use help. In addition, we will have some open Board positions

the following year (2018/2019) for people who might be interested in serving on the Board and helping us to continue the Joshua L. Chamberlain CWRT.

Thank you to each of you for being members and continuing to support our Civil War Round Table. Without your membership and support there wouldn't be a Round Table. Let's hope for good weather for our April meeting, and I hope to see you all there.

### **Treasurer's Update – Paul Lariviere**

#### **Quick Stats – March:**

Meeting: March 9, 2017

Speaker: Charles Plummer: Lincoln the Humorist, Storyteller and Poet

Attendance: 68

Book Raffle tickets sold: 66

In-Kind Donations: 10 books, 1 card set

Book prizes distributed: 10

#### **INCOME:**

\$75.00 Memberships

\$61.00 Book Raffle revenue

\$37.00 Cash Donations

\$100.00 Adopt-a-Speaker

**\$273.00 TOTAL cash Income**

#### **EXPENSES:**

\$0.00 Speaker Meals

\$0.00 Speaker Fee

**\$0.00 TOTAL Expenses**

#### **NET INCOME:**

**\$273.00 NET Income**



#### **Year-to-Date:**

NET Income: \$1,859.34

Bank Balance, **Mar 20**, 2017: \$4,251.26

### **Adopt-A-Speaker – Dinner Host Program**

In conjunction with its Adopt-A-Speaker setup, the JLC CWRT maintains a Dinner Host program. With this arrangement, members who donate to the Adopt-A-Speaker program at the "General" level have the opportunity to have dinner with a visiting speaker at Richard's Restaurant in Brunswick. Under this



program, the CWRT pays for dinner for the speaker, and the host pays for his/her own dinner.

See the last page of the newsletter to enroll in the Adopt-A-Speaker program. Please contact Paul Lariviere (Treasurer) to make arrangements to host a specific speaker, at least one week before the program. Below is our speaker line-up for the rest of 2016/17.

- April 13**     *Matt Cost*  
**Joshua Chamberlain and the Civil War: At Every Hazard**
- May 11**     *John Cross*  
**Entering the Maelstrom: The Bowdoin Class of 1861 and the Civil War**
- June 8**      *Tom Desjardin*  
**TBA**

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## Field Reports

*Historical Perspectives from our Members*

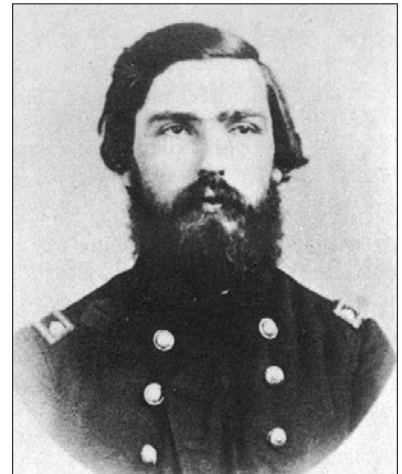
### Two Bios – Pardee and Cabell

by Jay Stencil

#### **Don Albert Pardee, 1837-1919**

Don Albert Pardee graduated from the Naval Academy in 1857 and served in the Union as the Provost Marshall of Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1863. He was brevetted Brigadier General in the United States Voluntary Service just prior to his being mustered out of the military in 1864. He then decided to go to New Orleans to practice law, and subsequently served as a state and federal judge. He seemed to enjoy his stay in the South, and he never was considered a carpetbagger.

Source: *The Civil War Dictionary* by Mark Mayo Boatner III



Don Albert Pardee



Major (later Lt. Col.) Don Pardee turned the green recruits of the 42nd Ohio into soldiers using methods and discipline he first encountered as a Naval Academy midshipman and U.S. Navy officer. (*Hiram College Archives*)

<https://garfieldnps.wordpress.com/2013/03/18/colonel-don-pardee-of-the-42nd-ohio-volunteer-infantry-part-i/>

### **William Lewis Cabell, CSA General, 1827-1911**

A graduate from West Point in 1850, and wounded at Hatcher's Ridge near Corinth in 1862, CSA General Cabell had served as a Captain in the Union Army on the Western Frontier. In 1861 he resigned his commission and joined the Confederacy as a Major. Jeff Davis dispatched him to Richmond, Virginia to form up the commissary and quartermaster departments. At First Manassas he served under CSA General Beauregard as Chief Quarter Master, and then under Joseph E. Johnston. From there he headed back west to the Trans-Mississippi Theater under Van Dorn as Quarter Master, where he saw action in the Pea Ridge Campaign while in charge of logistics.



William Lewis Cabell

After recovering from his wounds, he was back on duty in northwest Arkansas and promoted to Brigadier General in April 1863, when he took command of all the troops in that area. In a cavalry charge leading his Brigade near Marais des Cygnes in Kansas in October 1864, he was captured by Union forces. He was held until well after the war, and released August 1865.

Later he moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas to practice law and he became interested in politics. He then moved to Dallas, Texas and served four terms as Mayor. He rounded out his career working in Democratic politics, railroad expansion, and with veteran organizations.

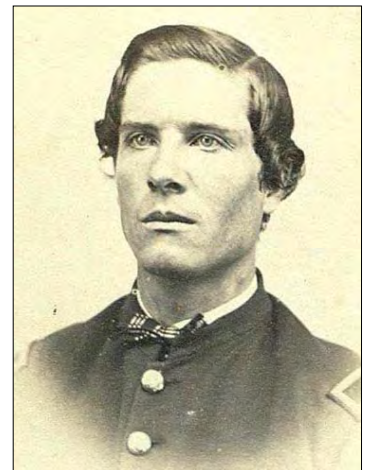
Source: *The Civil War Dictionary* by Mark Mayo Boatner III

## **Around the Campfire**

### ***News from our Members***

#### **Amazing Stories of the Fifth Maine Regiment**

On **Tues, April 11**, Curtis Mildner, Civil War amateur, Civil War historian, and Trustee of the Fifth Maine Regiment Museum on Peaks Island will speak at the Topsham Historical Society monthly meeting at the **Topsham Public Library**. His entertaining presentation, "Amazing Stories of the Fifth Maine," will describe the experiences of seven soldiers of the Fifth Maine Volunteer Regiment. This includes the tragic story of a Maine farm boy, a surgeon captured by the Confederates, a soldier only known by a personal ad in a newspaper, an African American member of the regiment, an Irish immigrant



John McClellan

who served in both the Federal and Confederate armies, an ordinary soldier revered by his comrades and promoted, and an officer who met his end just a few miles from where his grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War.

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### **Joshua L. Chamberlain CWRT Book Club – Mon, Apr 24**

The Round Table has sponsored a book club for many years. All JLC CWRT members (and non-members) are invited to join and participate in our discussions, debates, and treats. We invite anyone who is interested in Civil War and other era history books and enjoys discussing them with like-minded individuals.



We meet the third Monday of each month at 7 PM at People Plus, at 35 Union Street in Brunswick, unless that falls on a holiday, when we adjust our meeting date. We have selected the following books for the remainder of the year:

**Apr 24 – Miracle at Midway** – Gordon Prange, Donald Goldstein, Katherine Dillon

**May 15 – Patriots and Rebels** – John C. Bush

**June 19 – Alexander Hamilton** – Ron Chernow

All are welcome – please join us!  
– Steve Garrett

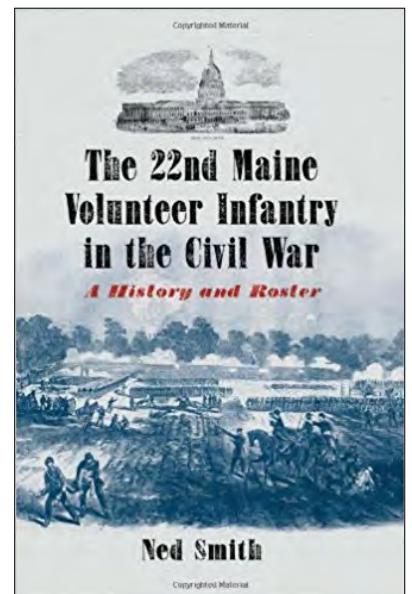
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### **Bookshelf – A Few Good Reads**

#### **The 22nd Maine Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War: A History and Roster.**

Ned Smith. McFarland & Company, Inc., Publisher. Jefferson, North Carolina, 2010.

I enjoy reading regimental histories. Yes, I know they are not always the most accurate of histories, but they are voices from the past or from a specific perspective. This is a unique book among the many regimental histories; it is about a nine-month regiment. This history



begins with a chapter explaining Maine's political history prior to the Civil War and an appendix about the forming of regiments in Maine. Both of these are worth the purchase of the book without the central history, but the history of the 22nd Maine is well worth the read.

How many knew that secession was discussed in Maine and that a convention in northern New England was held to consider seceding from the Union? States' rights and the limits to the federal government's power over the states were at the core of this discussion. John Calhoun as the leading voice for states' rights was very popular in Maine, as demonstrated in the name John Calhoun Chamberlain.



The 22<sup>nd</sup> Maine at Fort Jameson.

And the politics of regimental formations was far from what was necessary to become an efficient military regiment. Included in this appendix is a discussion of a state draft, or threat of it, that came more than a year prior to the federal draft. Town bounties, the conflict between rich and poor towns, and the creation of nine-month regiments were all part of the avoidance of the draft and pride of each town to do its part. Two other appendixes are included: "Causes of death in different theaters of the war," and the Roster of the 22nd Maine.

Professor Smith's history of the 22nd Maine Volunteer Regiment is based upon letters between Pvt. Francis Ireland and his father back in Dexter, Maine. He uses reports and letters from other members of the regiment to clarify and/or verify the information provided by Pvt. Ireland to his family. Francis wrote of his observations and experiences as the 22nd Maine was organized in Bangor, traveled to Washington, Fort Monroe, then on to New Orleans to become part of General Nathaniel Banks' army.



The 22nd Maine became part of the fight for control of the lower Mississippi to split the Confederacy, and the fight for Port Hudson. Francis was insightful and reflected the emotions of the Civil War volunteer with a dry Maine sense of humor—he noted that the alligators were somewhat bigger here than those in Maine—all from the perspective of the enlisted man, as great events spiraled around him.

Get this book from your local bookseller or library and enjoy an informative and good read.

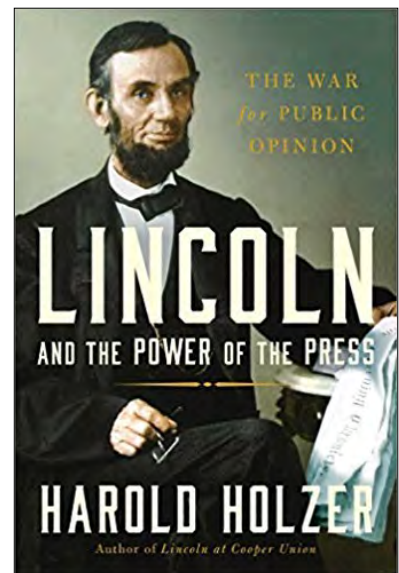
Ned Smith is a veteran, long time educator, Professor of History at Husson University and husband to Diane Monroe Smith, author of *Fanny & Joshua*, *Chamberlain at Petersburg*, and *Command Conflicts in Grant's Overland Campaign*. Professor Smith's second book released in 2014 is *The 2nd Maine Cavalry in the Civil War*.

– Steve Garrett

**Lincoln and the Power of the Press: The War for Public Opinion.**  
**by Harold Holzer.** New York: Simon and Schuster, 2014. 768 pp.

Harold Holzer's book is one great read. It is one of the books that we ought to read, maybe must read. It is not a quick read due to its size and Holzer forces you to think your way through it. But what is it really about? Holzer gives us the answer in his 'Introduction' (page xxv):

*"...the work seeks to explore the broader story of nineteenth-century political journalism through a much more focused lens; by tracking the chief political and journalistic personalities of the day to weave together two specific, ongoing, and historically vital competitions. The first... between a pair of rival politicians ... and the second ... among three extraordinary journalists who covered them."*



The politicians are Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas and the Journalists; Horace Greeley (New York Tribune), James Gordon Bennett (New York Herald) and Henry Raymond (New York Times). These are the main players, but there are many others.

Holzer continues in the 'Introduction' (page xxvii) that:

*"...perhaps New York was never culturally representative of the entire country...but no editors anywhere amassed or deployed more truly national editorial power from the 1840s through the 1860s than Greeley, Raymond and Bennett."*

Couldn't this be said today in our modern media? Continuing Holzer writes (page xxix):

*"...the products of nineteenth-century journalism... cry out for a reappraisal that takes into account the filter through which their landmark work was originally accomplished: that of unbridled political partisanship, and a desire to influence, and in some cases, participate in government."*

*"It is a story of both unexpected alliance and brutal wars -- uncivil wars."*

Therefore, this is a story of the evolution of how Lincoln who in his competition with Stephen Douglas learned how to use and manage the media (newspapers and the editors). And it is the story of the three giants of the media of the mid-nineteenth century. Their pursuit to make, influence and in some cases be part of the power structure/government.

The book is structured into two major parts. **Part I --Drumbeat of the Nation** develops the main players by telling their individuals stories. For example, Abraham Lincoln's evolution from the newspaper reading postmaster of the little village of Salem, Illinois to become a political player, locally, at the state and national level. Lincoln's evolution and understanding of the power of the press he expressed at one of the Lincoln - Douglas debates (August 21, 1858):

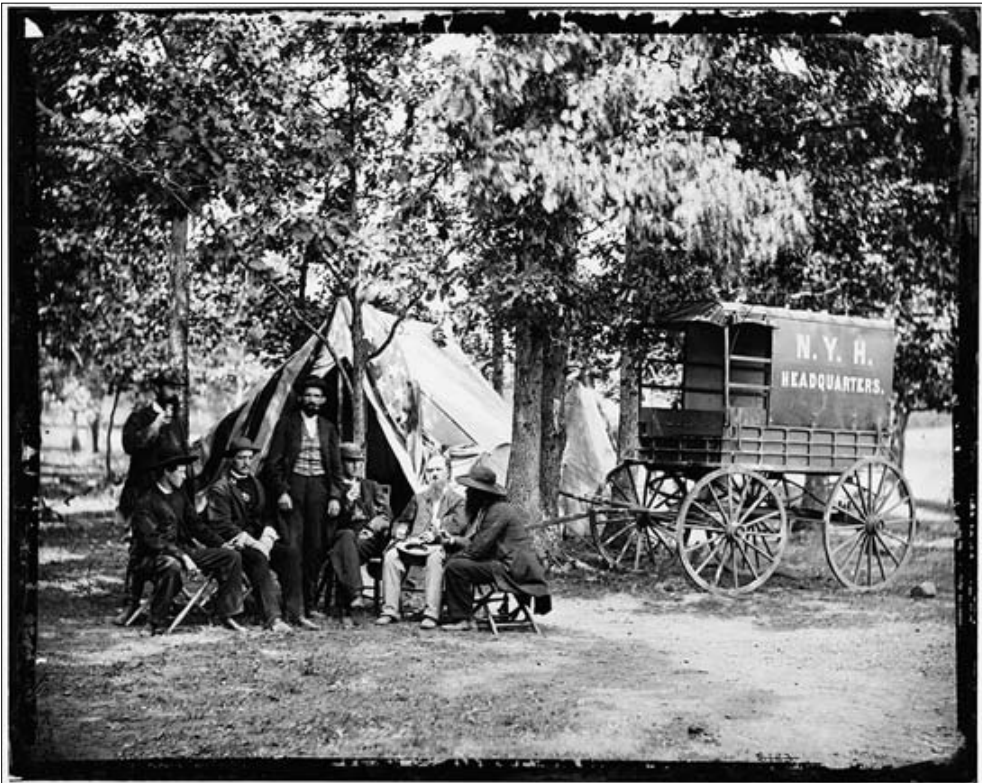
*"He who moulds public sentiment, goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces decisions."*

Lincoln understood the necessity of the management of the press and cultivated like minded editors and newspaper owners for his political advantage. In fact he was an owner himself.

Part I, also, describes the evolution of our three journalists. All of this is done in context of the issues evolving around our main personalities and takes us through Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency, the secession of the southern states and the evolving national crisis.

**Part II -- The Uncivil War** takes us through Lincoln's presidency, his management and use of the press, restriction of disloyal press; those, deemed against the war effort including jailing of editors. And the three journalist's internal debates and attempts to gain his support, manipulate and influence his decisions, and drive his leadership toward their vision of success. While at the same time trying to gain more and more market share for their newspaper. How successful were they in influencing Lincoln's decisions on strategy, pursuing the war, emancipation and his re-election may have been summed up by Greeley:

*"He's too smart for me."*



Correspondents of the *New York Herald* photographed at Bealeton, Virginia, in August 1863. They were traveling with the forces of Gen. George Meade who was in pursuit of Robert E. Lee's army after the Battle of Gettysburg. Photo by Timothy H. O'Sullivan.

Lincoln was able to use the newspapers and newspaper men to mold public opinion and support where he wanted to lead the country. Advance stories, we call them leaks today, to selected newspapers could be used to prepare the public for forthcoming decisions and manage troublesome editors. Better yet, he learned that he could go around the editors by sending letters written directly to the public that loyal newspapers would print. None of

this was easy, but managing the opinionated masters of their craft was necessary to gain the public's support.

Holzer shows us how Abraham Lincoln, 'Honest Abe' was quite the manipulator of information. It is clear that nineteenth-century newspapers were partisan and aggressive in promoting their political positions. Their partisanship would make MSNBC, CNN, CBS and Fox blush. While many angst over the partisanship of our current media, consider how Lincoln managed media. Today we have various forms of media; radio, televisions, blogs, and newspapers all with their issues. Nineteenth-century towns / Cities had multiple newspapers with specific partisan views. Maybe we have not changed that much.

If you have not read **Lincoln and the Power of the Press: The War for Public Opinion** get it at your local library, download it to your electronic reader, or buy it at your local bookstore. It is well worth the effort. To quote James McPherson:

*"Harold Holzer's compelling narrative of the intertwined world of politics and journalism demonstrates Lincoln's canny skill in using the press to advance his own career as well as the cause of Union and freedom. A tour de force."*

– Steve Garrett

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## **Duty Roster**

JLC CWRT Membership committee thanks the following members

### **Recently renewed:**

Dan & Lucy Cunningham

Kerck Kelsey

Curtis Mildner

Matthew Mueller

Noma Petroff

### **Adopt-a-Speaker Donors:**

Dan Cunningham      General

Lucy Cunningham      General

# Community Calendar —

## Upcoming Events and Such

### Chamberlain Days: Fri-Sun August 11-13

NOTE >>> JLC CWRT Information Table will be  
Sat Aug 12 (only)

#### CORRECT YOUR CALENDARS!

Due to some major scheduling conflicts, the Pejepscot Historical Society has moved Chamberlain Days forward one week. Instead of the first weekend in August, the dates are now August 11-13, 2017.



The Third Maine Regiment is confirmed for Saturday, **August 12**, on the Brunswick Town Mall. In previous years, the encampment has lasted from Friday night through Sunday morning but this year will be concentrated on Saturday, tentatively from 8AM-4PM.

A wide variety of other activities are in the process of being planned including speakers, music, special tours, and more. A full agenda and ticketing information will be available in late spring.

### Maine Masonic Civil War Library and Museum – Spring Lecture Series:

Local Authors & Portland History  
Second Thursdays: Noon-1:00pm  
Portland Masonic Temple  
415 Congress Street

#### Boxed Lunch\* Lecture Series

Thurs April 13. **Herb Adams “Portland’s Great Fire”** On July 4th 1866, over one-third of Portland burned. Over 150 years later the Great Fire still marks Portland. Illustrated lecture with photos, paint-ings and headlines of our greatest tragedy.

Thurs May 11. **Matt Barker “Irish in the Civil War in Portland”** This lecture will cover wartime conditions and the City and will introduce a number of Irish Veterans and their contributions to the war.

Thurs June 8. **Paul Ledman “Walking Through History: Portland Maine on Foot”** This lecture will help make connections between today’s urban landscape and much of the history that made Portland the city it is today.

This series will be held in the Scottish Rite Reading Room at the historic Masonic Temple. The Scottish Rite Reading Room is dedicated to the many Scottish Rite Masons throughout Maine history, including names you might recognize around



Portland - like Drummond, Preble, Allen, and Deering. \*Bring your own lunch. Light refreshments provided. Donations accepted and appreciated

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Want to share announcements or stories with the **Newsletter**?

Please keep formatting simple. You may send Word docs, Word Perfect, or even plain e-mail notes. (However, PDF's of articles are difficult to process.) Send photos as an attachment, do not embed them in the article.

Send submissions to Lucy Cunningham at [lcunning@bowdoin.edu](mailto:lcunning@bowdoin.edu) by **the 15<sup>th</sup>** of each month.

**Did you know:** Most e-mail servers give you the option for the Newsletter to “view online” or “download PDF.” Viewing online is quick – but downloading the PDF actually gives you more options – as the links are live, and text and photos can be easily enlarged for easier viewing.

# MEMBERSHIP & ADOPT-A-SPEAKER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (required for Newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Print clearly*

**MEMBERSHIP**     \_\_\_ New Member     \_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_ Individual \$25

\_\_\_ Family \$35

\_\_\_ Student \$15

\_\_\_ Additional Donation for JLC CWRT

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL Membership

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## ADOPT-A-SPEAKER

\_\_\_ General \$50 (Generals – see page 3 for Speaker Host program)

\_\_\_ Colonel \$40

\_\_\_ Major \$30

\_\_\_ Captain \$20

\_\_\_ Lieutenant \$10

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL Adopt-A-Speaker

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\_\_\_\_\_ **GRAND TOTAL:** Membership & Adopt-A-Speaker. Make payment:

Chamberlain CWRT

PO Box 1046

Brunswick ME 04011-1046 (Or present payment to Treasurer at meeting)

For more information, please contact [JLCCWRTmembership@gmail.com](mailto:JLCCWRTmembership@gmail.com)