

THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 60, No. 1

542nd Meeting

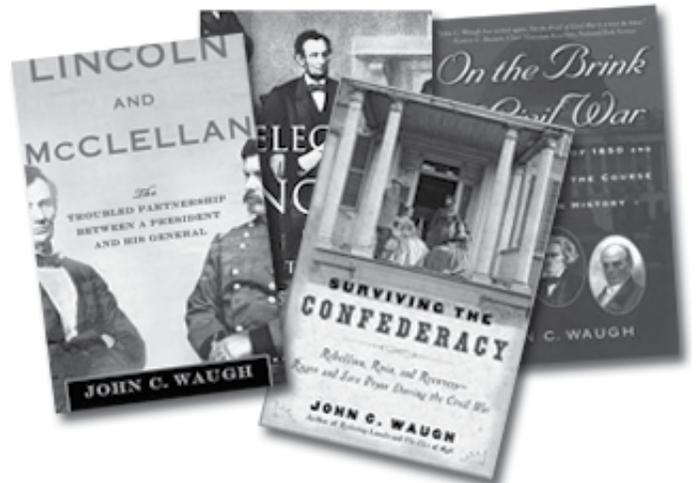
September 2010



- Speaker:
John C. Waugh
Lincoln and McClellan
- Cost:
Members: \$35
Non-Members: \$45
- Date: 3rd Wednesday
September 15th
- Place:
The Three West Club,
3 West 51st Street,
3rd Floor
- Time:
Dinner at 6 pm,
Doors open 5:30 pm,
Cash Bar 5:30 – 7 pm

You must call 718-341-9811 by September 8th, if you plan to attend the September meeting. We need to know how many people to order food for.

John C. Waugh



Our September guest is a long time friend of the CWRTNY. He won our Fletcher Pratt award for his 1994 book *The Class of 1846* and his most recent books include: *Reelecting Lincoln* (1997), *Surviving the Confederacy* [the tale of Roger Pryor] (2002), *On The Brink of Civil War* (2003) and the newly published *Lincoln and McClellan* (2010) Jack is a journalist turned historical reporter. For 17 years (1956 to 1973) he was a staff correspondent and bureau chief on *The Christian Science Monitor*. From 1973-1976, he was a media specialist on the staff of Vice President Nelson Rockefeller. For six years, 1983 to 1988, he was press secretary to U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico. Jack was born in California, raised in Arizona and now lives in Pentego, Texas. He is product of the Tuscon public schools and the University of Arizona.

The Dispatch on e-mail

We are going to offer an e-mail version of *The Dispatch*. If you would prefer to receive your newsletter electronically, please send us your e-mail address (or call the RT number and leave it, or e-mail it to basecat1@aol.com. If we don't hear from you, we'll assume you wish to continue having your *Dispatch* mailed to you. Either way is fine, but e-mail does save us a lot of postage.



Dress Code

Reminder: The 3 West Club has asked us to remind our members of their dress code:

No jeans, shorts or cargo pants; no t-shirts or beach sandals; basically, business casual.

2010 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2010

• October 13th •
Dan Sutherland
Guerrilla Warfare

• November 10th •
TBA

• December 8th •
Jeff Richman
Green-Wood Cemetery

President's Message

It's September again, and we begin another great season at the Civil War Round Table of New York. As you all know, this is going to be a special year. Besides being the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, 2011 marks the 60th Anniversary of this Round Table. This is truly a momentous occasion. We all know of companies, clubs and organizations that do not last that long. To commemorate this event, we are planning a special event for our May meeting. I have asked Pat Falci to organize that event and he will be updating us on specifics as the season begins.

For the September Meeting, we have John C. Waugh as our speaker. His topic will be his new book "*Lincoln and McClellan - The Troubled Partnership Between A President And His General,*" an excellent book. Hope to see all of you on September 15th

— Charles Mander

Book Review

Mrs. Lincoln: A Life

by Catherine Clinton

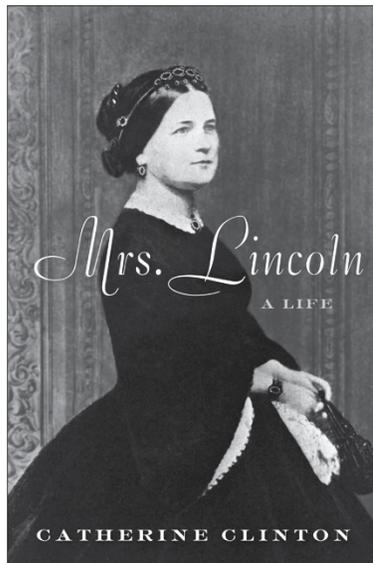
Catherine Clinton is an American who holds a chair in U.S. History at Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Mrs. Lincoln is an excellent study of a troubled, but highly intelligent and accomplished woman, who rose to the top of the political-social ladder. Clinton notes, "Mary was certainly better educated than most woman within her society and also was better educated than most of the men during her era as well."

One of her problems was that she was a 20th century woman subject to 19th century constraints. Ms. Clinton provides many examples of Victorian customs dictating a woman's place in society, and how Mary Lincoln dealt with some of them. Those she couldn't deal with led her to sad life.

Her White House years were anything but happy. When she won the coveted prize, disaster struck. Her young son, Willie, died in 1862, and the steady drumbeat of political attacks, with a ferocity unknown today, during and after her husband's presidency, took their toll on her already fragile psyche. "She was forced to run a gauntlet as First Lady, with scorching press attacks more prolonged than those made on any presidential wife before. She was called names in the press and hunted like the vulnerable prey she was." Even presidential secretaries John Hay and John Nicolay (both with stellar reputations today) were "openly hostile" to her, calling her "The Hellcat" behind her back. Ms. Clinton does not hide Mary's extravagances in acquiring clothes and in grossly exceeding White House budgets. She candidly assesses Mary's emotional states: "She suffered from self-destructive patterns and maintained her dance of denial over mental problems throughout her long life. (She died at 63). She called Mary's binge buying "financial bulimia".

She was declared insane in 1875. Ms. Clinton totally absolves Robert Lin-

Continued on page 4



THE DISPATCH



Founded January 24, 1951

The Dispatch is published monthly, except July and August, by

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.,

139-33 250th Street,
Rosedale, N.Y. 11422
Telephone CWRT/NY at (718) 341-9811

During business hours.

OFFICERS

President Charles Mander
V.P. Programs Judith Hallock
V.P. Operations William F. Finlayson
Secretary Rochelle Schumer
Treasurer John J. Sheehan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms Expiring 2011

Steve Basic
Terry McCarthy

Terms Expiring 2012

Patrick Falci
Martin Smith

Terms Expiring 2013

Michael Connors
Len Rehner

Editor E.A. (Bud) Livingston
Copy Editor Joan McDonough
P.R. Martin A. Smith
Merchandise Paul Weiss
Web Master Charles Mander

<http://www.cwrtnyc.org>

August/September during the Civil War

1861

August 16 – Anti-government newspapers are brought to court for their pro-Confederate leanings. Among those papers whose mailing privileges are suspended is the *Brooklyn Eagle*. The *Brooklyn Standard* will now refer to their rival as “That Foul Bird, the *Eagle*.”

September 3 – Leonidas Polk, old friend of Jefferson Davis, violates Kentucky’s neutrality, losing that extremely important border state for the CSA.

1862

August 29–30 – At 2nd Bull Run, Professor Jackson teaches John Pope a lesson in mystifying, misleading and surprising the enemy.

September 17 – Ambrose Burnside finally gets his troops over his eponymous bridge but they are halted by the timely approach of A.P. Hill, back from the surrender at Harpers Ferry.

1863

August 1 – Jefferson Davis anticipates a famous Winston Churchill quote by offering the Southern people nothing but “victory or subjugation, slavery and utter ruin of yourselves, your family, and your country.”

September 20 – At Chickamauga, Braxton Bragg orders Leonidas Polk (old friend of Jefferson Davis) to attack at dawn. It never happens. Polk must have his breakfast first at a local farm house.

1864

August 18 – Grant refuses a 2nd Confederate request for an exchange of prisoners, halting one of their best avenues of reenlistments. This condemns many Union P.O.W.s who are suffering in Southern prison camps.

September 4 – The elusive John Hunt Morgan fails to elude Union troops and is killed at Greeneville, Tn. Several of his mates will join the effort to burn N.Y.C. down on November 25, 1864.

Re Benjamin Butler at Bermuda Hundred

“These corps commanders were the professional soldiers on whom Grant relied to keep Butler from folly. As far as Grant could see they were well chosen. The commander of Butler’s X Corps was Major General Quincy A. Gillmore, who had conducted the siege of Charleston. He failed there through no especial fault of his own. The experience had left him highly distrustful of any operation that involved attacking entrenched Confederates, but there was no way to know that it had left him very reluctant to make any attack at all. The other man, leading the XVIII Corps was Major General William F. Smith, who had greatly impressed Grant by his handling of the engineering assignments at Chattanooga. Like Bragg’s lieutenants at Chickamauga, Smith was capable but difficult in an erratic way that finally became altogether incomprehensible. At the beginning of May, Grant thought him one of the best generals in the army; by July, he considered him one of the worst.”

From Never Call Retreat by Bruce Catton

Query

Who wrote this about a former Civil War general who became a famous author?

“The English of this book is incorrect & slovenly & its diction, as a rule, barren of distinction.”

Answer on page 4



New Recruits

Jay Moss, who is interested in battles and who volunteered to help pass the hat around at his very first meeting.

Joshua Goldblatt

Peter De Felipe, who is a big A.P. Hill fan.

Thomas E. Moseley, who is a collateral descendant of soldiers who fought for Missouri CSA outfits and who is interested in legal issues and Confederate operations in the North.

Continued from page 2

coln of any malicious intent in committing his mother to a sanitarium. He was acting in her best interests, and was a faithful conservator of her financial resources. She was released from the sanitarium after six months, and went to live with her elder sister in Springfield, but that lasted for only twelve months. Her last years were literally spent in exile, living in Pau, a village in Southwestern France. When her health declined in 1881, she returned to America and soon died.

Professor Clinton writes, "Mary Lincoln's mental health will remain, like her husband's, a topic of endless interest and speculation." However, amid continuing controversy, Mrs. Lincoln has received a first-rate biography.

By Michael Wolf

Answer:

Mark Twain wrote it about Lew Wallace's autobiography. Wallace authored Ben Hur.



Dues are due

If you haven't already paid your dues, please send your checks in now. After October, the price rises to \$50. If we don't hear from you by January 1, we will be obliged to drop your name from our mailing lists. Sorry about that.

We now have three yearly dues categories:

	Individual	Family
First Category	\$40	\$60
Second Category	\$50	\$75
Third Category	\$100	\$150

You may choose any appropriate amount to send in, but it will be greatly appreciated if you are able to remit the amounts in the second or third categories.

Out-of-towners (75 miles or more) and students (full or part time and under 25) pay \$15.00 unless you are covered by your parent's payment. If you joined up between January and March 2010, you owe only \$15.00. If you joined up in April, May, or June, you get a freebie.

**Dues should be sent to Charles Mander,
24 Wilcox Place, Fairlawn, N.J. 07410**

DO NOT include your dues and dinner payment on the same check.



THE DISPATCH

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
OF NEW YORK

139-33 250th Street, Rosedale, N.Y. 11422