

THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 60, No. 8

549th Meeting

April 2011



• Guest:
Will Greene
Beauregard at Petersburg

• Cost:
Members: \$35
Non-Members: \$45

• Date:
Wednesday,
April 13th

• Place:
The Three West Club,
3 West 51st Street,

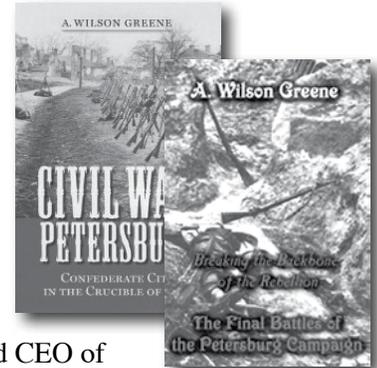
• Time:
Dinner at 6 pm,
Doors open 5:30 pm,
Cash Bar 5:30 – 7 pm

*You must call
718-341-9811 by
April 6th, if you
plan to attend the
April meeting.*

*We need to know how
many people to order
food for.*

Will Greene Beauregard at Petersburg

Our guest, a native of Chicago, has led Pamplin Historical Park from its initial planning in 1992 through the present. Prior to this, he was president and CEO of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, the predecessor of the Civil War Preservation Trust. Will served sixteen years in the National Park Service at a variety of historic sites and holds degrees in history from Florida State University and Louisiana State University. He has served on the faculties of Mary Washington College (Fredericksburg), Germanna Community College (Va.) and St Bernard (La.) Community College. He is a frequent lecturer and study leader for the Smithsonian Institution and has authored more than 25 publications dealing with the Civil War and Southern history. His books include *The Second Manassas Campaign* (1996), *Breaking the Backbone of the Rebellion* (2000), and *Petersburg, Virginia Confederate City in the Crucible of War* (2006).



Don't forget the 60th Anniversary festivities! May 11th, 2011

54th Annual Battlefield Tour

"For A Good Time, Jine The Cavalry"

This year's tour will focus on the battle of Cedar Mountain, and the two largest cavalry battles fought during the Civil War – Brandy Station and Trevilian Station. We will also tour Mosby's Confederacy. Our tour guide will be cavalry expert Bud Hall. So saddle up with Stuart or Custer and ride to the sound of the guns on September 9th–11th, 2011.

Call the Round Table for details: 718-341-9811.

A \$100 deposit to reserve your place can be mailed to our HQ at 139-33 250th Street, Rosedale, N.Y., 11422.

60th Anniversary

By now, you should have mailed in your check for the May 11th Anniversary meeting - \$50 members, \$60 non-members. Right? Remember, all dinners must be pre-paid – we will not be accepting reservations at the door that night.

So if you don't want to miss Bud Robertson, Mort Kunstler, Harold Holzer, Fletcher Pratt winner Donald Stoker, fiddle music, and some surprises – get going!

Mail to:
CWRTNY, 139-33 250th Street, Rosedale, NY 11422.

2011 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2011

• **May 11th** •
60th Anniversary Festivities
and Fletcher Pratt Winner
Donald Stoker

• **June 8th** •
Bud Hall
Battle of Brandy Station

• **September 14th** •
TBA

President's Message

April is here and with it, all of the flowers of Spring, a truly wonderful feeling after the many snows of this past winter. I want to wish everyone a Happy Passover and a Happy Easter.

In regard to this year's election, the Nominating Committee submitted an official slate of candidates at the March meeting. The names of those candidates are listed elsewhere in the Dispatch. This month's speaker is A. Wilson Greene from Pamplin Historical Park. I know it will be an enjoyable talk.

Lastly, there will be no President's Message in the May Dispatch, as I am giving the space to Patrick Falci, chairman of the 60th Anniversary Gala for all of the details. I hope all those wanting to attend have registered and paid up since there will be no non-registered admissions or payments at the door.

— Charles Mander

Book Review

Lincoln's Men

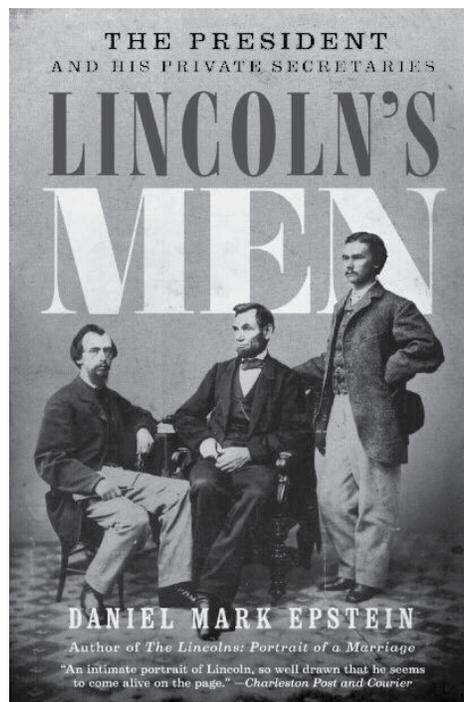
by Daniel Mark Epstein

Daniel Epstein has mined the copious letters, diaries, newspaper columns, and memoirs of Abraham Lincoln's three private secretaries, John Hay, John Nicolay, and William Stoddard, to produce a good story, full of fascinating vignettes and tidbits that give the reader a remarkable feel for what life must have been like in the White House during the Civil War.

Stoddard usually opened the mail, but Hay and Nicolay were much more than secretaries. In 1861 the president sent Hay, and later, Nicolay, to St. Louis to investigate the situation caused by the troublesome General John Frémont. "They both by now had Lincoln's complete confidence, and were serving double duty as paper and ink secretaries and as emissaries. Their missions always required strict discretion, in some cases more than the State Department or the army could assure the president."

There is a wonderful account of Hay telling a "droll but unprintable story" to Stoddard, starting again when Nicolay, attracted by the laughter, walked in, and then a third time when Lincoln appeared, saying, "Now John, just tell that thing again." Stoddard writes, "Down came the president's foot from across his knee, with a heavy stamp on the floor and out through the hall went an uproarious peal of fun."

Continued on page 4



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During business hours.

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April during the Civil War

1861

12 – The beginning of the five Aprils of the Civil War.

17 – President Jefferson Davis indicates that the CSA will accept applications for letters of marque (read privacy).

1862

3 – The young Napoleon, G.B. McClellan, has 112,000 men preparing for the siege of Yorktown. Unhappily, he faces 200,000 rebels (in his dreams).

6 – General Benjamin Prentiss helps to save the Union army from disaster at Shiloh by his spirited defense at the Hornet's Nest, giving Grant time to post the remainder of his army along the Pittsburg Landing ridge. Sherman, in his memoirs, barely mentions Prentiss's role.

1863

5 – After only two years, John Bull suddenly realizes that he is supposed to be neutral and detains the *Alexandria*, a Confederate blockade runner, in Liverpool.

16 – President Davis signs a bill that allows soldiers below the age of majority to hold military commissions. He refers to these men as teeny boppers.

1864

8 – The Senate passes the 13th amendment by 38-6 to abolish slavery. If the seceded states had stayed in the Union, this could never have happened. 38-6? Why not 44-0?

8 – Nathaniel Banks tries again but his forces are embarrassed by Richard Taylor's men (per usual), this time at Sabine Crossroads. The Sabine women cheer Taylor on.

1865

3 – Richmond finally falls almost four years after it all started at Fort Sumpter (that's the way it was spelled at the beginning of the war).

12 – Joshua Chamberlain honors the fighting men of the Confederacy by giving them military respect in the final hours of the war.

A CIVIL WAR ADVERTISEMENT

N. Ward Fitzgerald attorney at law Washington, D.C.

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N, Ward Fitzgerald, Attorney, Washington, D.C.

NEW SLATE – 2011-2012

Here's the new slate of officers:

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VP Operations	Paul Weiss
Secretary	Pat Holohan
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Board of Directors

Term Exp. 2012	Patrick Falci, Alan Florin (replacing Martin Smith)
Term exp. 2013	Michael Connors, Judith Hallock (replacing Len Rehner)
Term exp. 2014	Charlie Mander, Terry McCarthy



Query

- 1- After the battle of First Bull Run, who was the commandant of Libby Prison?
- 2- In the Army of Northern Virginia, which general had the most relatives on his staff?

Answers are on page 4

From the Adjutant's Call, Louisville CWRT

Continued from page 2

The only time Nicolay ever heard Lincoln curse in his presence was on February 27, 1862 (Guess who he was mad at. George McClellan, of course). McClellan had spent “a fortune” to move canal boats up the Potomac to Harpers Ferry but the pilots discovered the locks on the Canal were too narrow to admit the boats. “Why in the hell didn’t he measure first?” the president cried. Secretary Seward and General Randolph Marcy (McClellan’s father-in-law and chief of staff) came in, and they listened to Lincoln rant and swear, wide-eyed at the wonder of it. “Why in hell and damnation, General Marcy!...I am no engineer, but if I wished to know whether a boat would go through a lock, common sense would teach me to go and measure it.”

Round Table members will enjoy reading about the Civil War from a non-military point of view. Lincoln lovers will love this book, and the general reader will also find it a delight.

By Michael Wolf

New Recruits

Martin Collins, a friend of Jeff Richman who seems to be interested in everything Civil War related.

General J.E.B. Stuart



ANSWERS

1. Lieutenant David Todd, Mary Todd Lincoln’s half brother (for a very brief period)
2. General J.E.B. Stuart had nine relatives on his staff.



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