

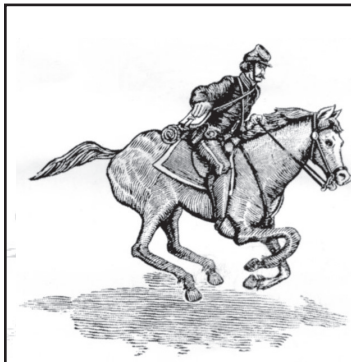
THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 68, No. 6

626th Meeting

January 2019



• Guest:
Jay Jorgensen
Stonewall Jackson

• Cost:
Members: \$50
Non-Members: \$60

• Date:
Monday,
January 14th

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

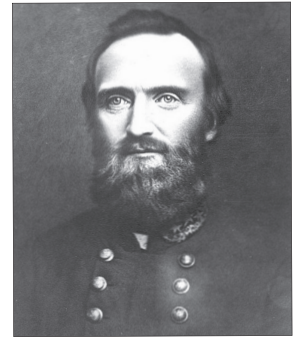
• Time:
Dinner at 6:00 pm,
Doors open 5:30 pm,
Cash Bar 5:30 – 7 pm

*You must call
718-341-9811 by
January 7th if you
plan to attend the
January meeting.*

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

Jay Jorgensen Stonewall Jackson

Jay Jorgensen graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a BA in history, from Villanova University of Law with a JD, and from American Military University with a MA in military history - Civil War Studies. He is a Superior Court Judge in New Jersey and is the author of *Gettysburg's Bloody Wheatfield*, which won the prestigious Bachelard-Coddington Award for best new book on Gettysburg in 2002. He is also the author of the *Wheatfield at Gettysburg: A Walking Tour*, *Edward Porter Alexander: Confederate Cannoneer*, and *Gettysburg's Leadership Lessons for Lawyers (and Non-Lawyers too!)*.



More from John Vliet's 14th Brooklyn

The soldiers of the Fourteenth Brooklyn had sharp opinions about Union generals. Irvin McDowell had visited them with George McClellan, but the men did not respect him. Vliet felt that he "always seemed to be too late in making an advance for when we expected to meet the enemy they were not to be found and it seemed to be an invariable rule for him to march and countermarch the same roads a number of times without accomplishing anything." This behavior did not endear him to the Fourteenth Brooklyn.

The new general of the Army of the Potomac in 1862, John Pope, inspired doggerel.

To place your shoes upon your feet
Forward march and never retreat

At first Pope's actions pleased Vliet and the other "War Democrats" of the Fourteenth. The new commander took "safety guards" from Virginia homes, a precaution Vliet,

had considered "a perfect humbug." The idea of guarding a Southerner's property when he was in open rebellion against the government angered him. Under Pope's policy, officers would take forage and give receipts—if the home owner had taken or would take the Loyalty Oath to the Federal government.

In a pawky vein, Vliet commented on the queer names for his generals. First he said, we had a Porter (Fitz John Porter) then a Keyes (Erasmus D. Keyes) then an Auger (Christopher C. Augur), a King (Rufus) and now a Pope (John) "to rule over all."

Vliet received the *New York Tribune* twice a week (although Collins sent it daily) and the newsboys brought the *New York* and *Baltimore* papers for which they were charged a nickel. He could also buy the *New York Times* and *Herald*.

Provost Marshal Captain J.C. Mansfield, he reported, had been favoring the Cesech (Vliet's peculiar spelling

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2019 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2019

• **Monday February 11th** •
Baroness Lincoln Award
Lincoln's Last Trial by
Dan Abrams and David Fisher

• **Monday March 10th** •
Niall O'Dowd
Lincoln and the Irish

• **Monday April 8th** •
TBA

President's Message

Happy New Year to all the members of our beloved Civil War Round Table! We thank everyone for making 2018 such a wonderful chapter in this organization's history, and we expect no less of 2019. With vacations and holiday feasts concluded, it is time to yet again sate our appetites for knowledge pertaining to what many would argue to be the greatest conflict in our nation's history.

However, it is sometimes easy to forget as we look to the past that often great historical moments have taken place before our very eyes. As 2018 drew to a close, our nation lost a man who was arguably one of the greatest movers and shakers of the second half of the 20th century, President George Herbert Walker Bush, a man who will be forever remembered for presiding over the end of America's Cold War with the Soviet Union. His tireless dedication to our national interest, as well as his devotion to a family that would continue to follow his example of civic duty spanning generations, can seem sometimes like a relic from an American identity we too often fail to show due deference.

From his service during World War II to his leadership in the CIA, all the way through his tenure as Vice President under Ronald Reagan and eventually the highest office itself, George H.W. Bush was one of the few men in Washington who seemed to always earn the respect, if not always the agreement, of adversaries and allies alike. In firm opposition to foreign tyrannies, he had a positive vision of the future that was centered around American moral leadership, a vision which the first commander-in-chief from his party, President Abraham Lincoln, almost certainly would have shared.

On the topic of our 16th President, following this month's Lee/Jackson night featuring author Jay Jorgensen, we look forward to once again presenting the Baroness/Lincoln Award for scholarship on President Lincoln in February. There is little doubt that the legacies of American chief, modern and historic, will be on everyone's minds that night. We look forward to seeing you then.

MICHAEL N. CONNORS

SUGGESTIONS

The Dispatch welcomes articles, book reviews (non-fiction only) and suggestions. Just send them in to our mailing address.



Dues are due

If you haven't already paid your dues, please send your checks in now. After October, the price rises to \$60. 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:

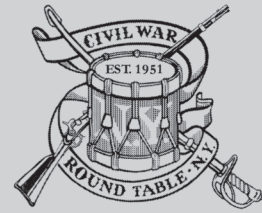
	Individual	Family	
Basic	\$60	\$80	
Silver	\$70	\$95	
Gold	\$120	\$170	
Out of Town	\$25	\$35	(75 miles or more)
Student	\$25		

New members please add \$10 initiation fee

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.

Send dues to CWRTNY 139-33 250th Street, Rosedale, N.Y. 11422
Do not include your dues and dinner payment on the same check.

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

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

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January During the Civil War

1862

3 – A quiet winter in quarters? Not with T.J. Jackson who moves north in what is called the Romney Campaign.

19 – Mill Springs and a victory for George H. Thomas against the myopic Felix Zollicoffer who rides into Federal lines and is killed by Yankee bullets.

1863

1 – “I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free.” The Emancipation Proclamation pertained only to areas “the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against United States.” Hence The War of The Rebellion.

22 – The winter campaign to cross the Rappahannock fails disastrously as the Army of the Potomac is stalled in the mud with ammunition trains mired, horses and mules dropping dead and all of Burnside’s boys dispirited, wet and hungry.

1864

10 – N.B. Forrest gives his usual welcome to the Union troops who come south to whip him. Superior forces under William Sooy Smith are driven back to where they came from.

23 – President Lincoln approves a policy whereby plantation owners recognize the freedom of their former slaves and hire them by fair contracts in order to recommence support for such a free labor system. Any takers? Or just Bronx cheers?

1865

4 – A real soldier, Alfred H. Terry, takes command for a new expedition against Fort Fisher. N.C. Most if the men had already taken part in the abortive Ben Butler expedition of December .

7 – Bad news for the C.S.A. Ben Butler is put on the shelf.

All items above are excerpted from *The Civil War Day by Day* by E.B. Long and Barbara Long.

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of “Secesh”) to such an extent that he had been sent to Washington as a prisoner. Rumors had also reached him that the Brooklyn Adams Express office had been closed for forwarding goods through private parties to Richmond.

Another rumor disturbed Vliet even more than the alleged traitorous behavior of the provost marshal. He heard that Congress planned to muster out all regimental bands. Vliet felt this would be a disaster as “there is nothing like music for the soldier. It has a better effect on him than whiskey.” Vliet felt it would be much a much better policy to weed out some of those fellows “who are continually making drafts on the treasury rather than take our music away.”

Mostly indifferent to the “Peculiar Institution” in ante-bellum days, many of Brooklyn’s soldiers reacted angrily to the Emancipation Proclamation. Vliet complained from Belle Plains, Virginia, in February, 1863 that the men “want to get home for they say the emancipation proclamation has turned the war into a negro war and that we are not fighting for the preservation of the union but for the freeing of Negroes and that they did not come out for that purpose.”

He expected the abolitionist general, John C. Fremont, to take command of Army of the Potomac since the anti-slavery general had already issued an emancipation proclamation of his own in Missouri, one which President Lincoln countermanded. If Fremont shows up, Vliet predicted, “all will leave to the man.” He insisted that Federal gunboats, instead of threatening the rebels, spent most of their time keeping Union men from deserting across to Maryland on rafts, rowboats, and sail boats. He also maintained that the purpose of picket duty had shifted from sniffing out the enemy to preventing desertion. He thought that only (Little Mac) George McClellan could restore the army’s confidence.

One of the Brooklyn newspapers Vliet received agreed with him. The *Standard*, although maintaining

unqualified support for reunion, felt that the Emancipation Proclamation would cause more harm than good. It would not stop, the paper continued, to argue the constitutionality of the proclamation, but trusted in God that the government was right, because on the emancipation measure depended the destiny of the country.

Vliet displayed a wariness of freed slaves generally. He thought one contraband “sharp as shears,” with a “light complexion, about eighteen, cannot read or write.” He added that “if he behaves himself I will look after him but if he undertakes to deceive us more than a half dozen times I will shop him out.”

Vliet continued to carp on the slavery problem in subsequent letters. He told Collins (his employer) that the emancipation of the negroes may or may not be an advantage, but didn’t the government have enough to do to feed and clothe its own soldiers, (which all too often they did poorly), than to take on more impossible burdens against the will of the North? Arm the blacks, he objected, and they will perform garrison duty while white soldiers are expected to do the real fighting and dying. He told Collins that his cynicism stemmed from experience, that he had seen too many blacks who utterly refused to work when paid for it and had overheard conversations among them that the white folks up north are bound to take care and fight for them whether they help or not.

After the battle of Antietam, the Army of the Potomac got a new commander, Ambrose Burnside. The likeable Rhode Islander with the fabulous sideburns did no better than John Pope at Second Bull Run. After the Union debacle at Fredericksburg, Burnside departed, too. On January 26, 1863, Joseph Hooker assumed command and in an effort to raise morale, promised an infusion of fresh food. Vliet reported that in theory, Hooker’s good intentions included issuing soft bread four times a week, potatoes and onions

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two times, and mixed vegetables once a week. Brooklynite Vliet, said in effect, "I'm from Missouri. Show me." He felt that seeing would be believing, that the promulgation of orders did not mean they would be carried out. Hooker, however, kept his word and the Fourteenth ate better in all respects.

John Vliet's letters can be found at The Brooklyn Historical Society Library

* * * *



Thanks to the CWRT of Australia for this

As a reminder, we need you to make reservations a week before the meeting - we must notify the 3 West Club at least 48 hours (business days only) before then and since we now meet on Mondays, there is no window if you call us the weekend before. Also, if you don't show up for the meeting after making a reservation and we have called in a certain number, we may have to pay for your dinner anyway. So from now on, we're going to charge the guest rate - \$60 - if you fail to make your reservation and we may ask you to pay for those no-show dinners. It is better for you to pay than the club should suffer the loss... Now we understand emergencies - illness, transportation problems, etc. We just ask that you let us know as soon as possible - that might allow us to fit in a late reservation. A little consideration would eliminate some of the guesswork we're required to make every month.



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OF NEW YORK

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