

# THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 66, No. 3

604th Meeting

November 2016



• Guest:  
**Peter Cozzens**  
West Point Officers After  
the Civil War

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

• Date:  
**Wednesday,**  
**November 9<sup>th</sup>**

• 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  
November 2<sup>nd</sup> if you  
plan to attend the  
November meeting.*

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

## Peter Cozzens

### West Point Officers After the Civil War

Our November guest is one of the nation's preeminent Civil War historians. He has authored sixteen critically acclaimed books on the American Civil War and the Indian Wars. A retired Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of State, Peter is a member of the Advisory Council of the Lincoln Prize, and is the author of *This Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga* and *The Shipwreck of Their Hopes: The Battles for Chattanooga*, among other books.



### Book Review

## City of Sedition

by **John Strausbaugh**

"The real war will never get in the books." So wrote Walt Whitman in his "Specimen Days." But Strausbaugh's "City of Sedition" comes captivatingly close in its account of the vexed and often ambivalent role New York and its citizens played in the not-so-Civil War.

Starting with the city's early incarnation as a commercial nexus for King Cotton, Strausbaugh weaves an ambitious and sprawling narrative while piecing together a crazy quilt of historical facts and fascinating anecdotes. He convincingly undermines myths, like the belief that New York City in particular, was firmly on the side of the angels concerning slavery and emancipation. As he

points out, Lincoln lost by landslides in New York City in two elections, and his wartime policies regularly annoyed the wealthy while provoking riotous bloody responses from the poor and disenfranchised.

"City of Sedition" is also an intriguing case study of New York's perpetual identity crisis, a metropolis "rarely of one mind," inhabited by Tammany thugs and the "shoddy aristocracy" of war profiteers, crusading journalists and abolitionists, Copperheads, Know-Nothings, humbugs, and, of course, literary Bohemians like Whitman. Perhaps most surprising are the eerie parallels to our current Specimen Days – with deep-rooted racism and xenophobia, corruption and class inequality, incendiary nativism and political chaos circling around the rise of an improbable presidential candidate.

By Paula Uruburu *N Y Times* 8/26/16

## 2016 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2017

• **December 14<sup>th</sup>** •

John F. Marszalek  
*Sherman's March Through  
Georgia and Carolina*

• **January 11<sup>th</sup>** •

S. C. Gwynne  
*Rebel Yell  
Jackson Night*

• **February 8<sup>th</sup>** •

The Baroness Lincoln Award

## President's Message

For those who joined us for our second meeting of our 66th Season, what a treat it was to have the 2016 Lincoln Prize Winner as our speaker!

Our thanks and grateful appreciation go out to Professor Martha Hodes for an outstanding job in bringing the "mourning period" after Lincoln's assassination to life for all our members and guests.

Unfortunately, our steadfast and ever-present president, Paul Weiss, was unable to host this meeting due to an injury that kept him off his feet. Fortunately for us, our "Pittsburgh Panther" is on the mend and plans to rejoin our ranks for our November 9th Meeting.

And what a meeting that should be! Because we have distinguished Civil War historian and author of over a dozen great books, Peter Cozzens, coming to speak to us about "West Point Officers After The Civil War!"

Please do yourself a favor--Reserve your seat right now! Call 718-341-9811 today. And don't be shy about asking your friends, family and co-workers to join you.

Being a membership organization, we depend on each and everyone of you to take ownership in keeping our wonderful club alive, active and vital so we can continue long into the future.

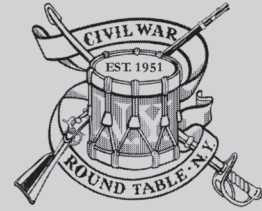
Join us in our mission to "make history come alive" and to "preserve the sites" where our American forefathers and foremothers forged and fought for the values that we hold dear.

See you at The 3 West Club on November 9th with Peter Cozzens!

PS: If you haven't sent in your Membership Renewal--What are you waiting for! Your dues are due NOW! Thanks.

*Marty Smith*

## THE DISPATCH



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## 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 Treasurer Bud Livingston**

**616 South Orange Ave. Apt. 6G, Maplewood, NJ 07040**

**Do not include your dues and dinner payment on the same check.**

## November During the Civil War

### 1861

**1-2** – In the East Lt. General Winfield Scott steps down reluctantly while John C. Fremont puts up a fight in the West - a fight to remain in charge, but no fight against the Confederates.

**26** – A convention in Western Virginia, in Wheeling, adopts a new constitution for a brand new state as West Virginia secedes from the seceded state of Virginia. Check out the Constitution. This move is slightly unconstitutional.

### 1862

**7** – November is a bad month for generals as George B. (I can do it all) McClellan is relieved just as Scott and Fremont were in November the year before.

**8** – More relief is in sight as mean old Ben Butler is relieved in New Orleans to the relief of its loyal Confederate citizens.

### 1863

**12** – Kate Chase, the bride of the year in the wedding of the year,

exchanges vows with the Prince Charming of Rhode Island, William Sprague. It doesn't work as Kate finds out to her chagrin.

**24** – Stephen Sondheim gets inspiration for *Send in the Clouds* as the *Battle Above the Clouds* commences at Lookout Mountain in Tennessee.

### 1864

**7** – In the understatement of the year Jefferson Davis declares "There are no vital points on the preservation of which the continued existence of the Confederacy depends." Surprisingly enough he was referring to the fall of Atlanta.

**8** – In the wartime election, George McClellan and George H. Pendleton capture 21 electoral votes. Of course A. Lincoln got the rest.

**Most items in this column are from E.B. Long's *The Civil War Day By Day*. This is what Bruce Catton wrote in the foreword:**

**"It is no exaggeration whatever to say that this man knows more facts about the Civil War than any other man who ever lived."**

## The Republicans in New York

(continued from October's Dispatch)

For a longtime leader like Senator Salmon Chase of Ohio, the invitation [for a speech] seemed almost insulting. He turned it down. A few second-tier aspirants, however, like Chase's fellow Buckeye, Senator Tom Corwin, jumped at the chance. Corwin created a mild sensation with a rip-roaring stem-winder at the Plymouth Church in Brooklyn.

Alone among the invitees, however, only Lincoln of Illinois sensed the huge – yuuuge – opportunity the invitation presented. For whatever stranglehold Seward may have had on the party machinery and its delegate selection process, "Old Abe" believed he could talk past the establishment and appeal to the New York newspapers whose mainstream media editorials reached beyond the city and state.

Lincoln also made sure he was the last of the speakers. In fact, by the time he set foot here, the original series had technically ended. The organizers chose a different venue: the newly opened Cooper Union in Manhattan, not far from Newspaper Row.

Lincoln constructed an image-altering speech for the occasion. Famous for joke-riddled debates and stump speeches, he did a deep dive into constitutional history to make the scholarly argument that the Founding Fathers intended the federal government – not voters in the new territories, as Democrats insisted - should decide the future of slavery. With that fact forcibly proven, Lincoln went on to assure the South that he would not threaten slavery where it already existed, but merely ban its spread absolutely, placing it, he conceded, on "a course of ultimate extinction."

Then, after two hours, came the unforgettable conclusion. Slavery was an evil and its opponents would never give up the fight to destroy it, he proclaimed, even if victory came in small increments over a long period of time: "Neither let us be slandered from our duty by false accusations against us, nor frightened from it by menaces of destruction to the government nor of dungeons to ourselves. Let us have faith

that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

The elite audience of 1,500, quiet at first, erupted into wild cheers. An eyewitness who had at first recoiled at Lincoln's nasal twang and discordant gestures, declared, "He's the greatest man since St. Paul."

Lincoln made a few more speeches in New England, then headed home- never to give another 1860 political speech. He had said it all in New York. Seward, who still entered the contested May convention with a seemingly insurmountable delegate lead, fell short on the first ballot. Seward's support has collapsed, and the veteran of but one New York speech was the presidential candidate. The rest, of course, is history.

By Harold Holzer NY *Daily News* 4/13/16

## NEW Recruits

**Eric Higgins** from Ct. who is interested in Gettysburg.

**Eugene Zak**, a friend of Carl Ellman.

**Denise Holmes** from faraway Novelty, Ohio, who hopes to be in NYC for some meetings.

## DRESS CODE

**Ladies and gentlemen: PLEASE**  
No sneakers, no jeans, no tee shirts. Gentlemen, please wear a collared shirt. Let's dress like we are attending a business meeting.

**Thanks, The Management**

## Floyd's and Pillow's Great Victory

The news from Fort Donelson struck Nashville into a blind panic which was all the worse because everybody had been so confident. General Johnston had brought Hardee's 17,000 men in a few days earlier, but although his evacuation of Bowling Green had been dismaying he seemed to feel that Nashville could be held and no one had been in the mood to doubt. The public optimism had even interfered with his military plans.

He wanted to block the Cumberland River by mooring an immense raft in the steamboat channel, but there had been much passive resistance; the steamboat men opposed a move that would stop the flow of ordinary commercial traffic, nobody supposed that the Yankee gunboats would ever get this far, and when Floyd and Pillow sent word that they had won a great victory, the project died. On Sunday morning, February 16, the churchgoing crowds were in high spirits. Johnston knew the worst before anyone went to church. An aide aroused him at daybreak with a dispatch from Buckner saying that the fort and everyone in it were being surrendered. Johnston sat up in his camp cot, asked the aide to reread the dispatch, muttered grimly, "I must save this army," and summoned his staff to prepare the troops for an immediate departure. He would get his army out of Nashville, marching southeast to the vicinity of Murfreesboro, sending a contingent to hold Chattanooga and then awaiting developments and a hoped-for junction with Beauregard and Bishop Polk's troops

from the Mississippi Valley; and the citizens who had been ready to celebrate saw the long columns tramping across the river and plodding south in undisguised retreat. Nashville was doomed, and by evening everybody knew it.

No large Confederate city had yet been occupied by a Northern army. Wartime propaganda had portrayed Federal soldiers as brutes inclined to rapine and murder, shamefully undisciplined; no one knew what horrors the Yankee invader would inflict but everyone seemed to expect the worst, and one soldier wrote years later that in all the war he never saw such frantic, unreasoning fear as he saw now in Nashville. There was a great rush to get out of town. Southbound trains were jammed, with extras running. People who owned horses and carriages set out in a cold rain, often with no clear destination in mind, and others started out by foot, lugging valises and carpetbags.

Many people who were not trying to go anywhere wandered up and down the streets in a daze, adding to the general confusion. Swarming mobs began to sack government warehouses and steamboats, carrying off immense quantities of bacon, salt pork, flour, blankets and clothing, roughly commandeering horses and wagons to help remove the plunder. Not until Tuesday, when Bedford Forrest and his cavalry reached Nashville, was anything effective done. Forrest was put in charge of the military depots, and he charged the plundering mobs with his rough troopers, sabers swinging and much profanity going on, and then the looting came to a stop.

From *Terrible Swift Sword* by Bruce Catton



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OF NEW YORK

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