

# THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 66, No. 2

603rd Meeting

October 2016



• Guest:  
**Martha Hodes**  
Mourning Lincoln

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

• Date:  
**Wednesday,**  
**October 5<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**

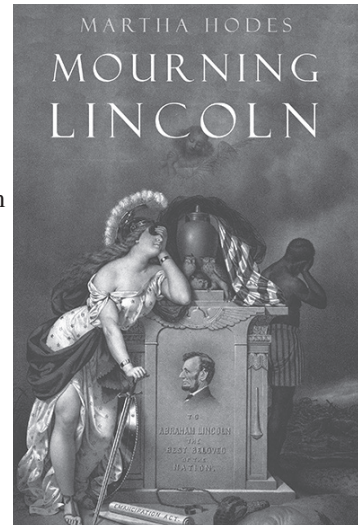
*You must call  
718-341-9811 by  
September 28<sup>th</sup> if you  
plan to attend the  
October meeting.*

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

## Martha Hodes Mourning Lincoln

Our October guest holds degrees from Bowdoin College, Harvard University and Princeton University. She came to NYU in 1994 and has since taught as a Visiting Professor at Princeton University and as a Fulbright Scholar in Germany. She is the author of *Mourning Lincoln* (Yale University Press, 2015), *The Sea Captain's Wife: A True Story of Love, Race, and War in the 19th Century* (W.W.Norton, 2006) and *White Women, Black Men: Illicit Sex in the 19th Century South* (Yale University Press, 1997).

At NYU, Hodes teaches courses on race, the Civil War, and Reconstruction, and the 19th Century United States.



## A Slave Escapes

Even in antebellum days thousands of American slaves freed themselves. In the border states, the Underground Railroad's help was most important, but some runaways also created their own unique escape schemes. One slave shipped himself to freedom ("Box" Brown); one married couple evolved into a slave and his owner (The Crafts), and one left in a sailor's uniform using a freedman's papers (Frederick Douglass).

*Continued on page 3*

## A Sad Notice

**We were saddened to hear of the passing of Bob Edmunds. He was an old-fashioned kind of nice guy.**

## NEW Recruits

**Michael Matarese** from White Plains, who is interested in Gettysburg and the politics of the war.

## 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**

## 2016 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2017

• **November 9<sup>th</sup>** •  
Peter Cozzens  
*West Point Officers  
After the Civil War*

• **December 14<sup>th</sup>** •  
John F. Marszalek  
*Sherman's March Through  
Georgia and Carolina*

• **January 11<sup>th</sup>** •  
S. C. Gwynn  
*Rebel Yell  
Jackson Night*

## President's Message

The most important part of this month's message is that our October meeting will be held on the **FIRST WEDNESDAY – OCTOBER FIFTH** – rather than our usual day. **SAME TIME - SAME PLACE - DIFFERENT DAY.**

Call in your reservation **NOW** to (718) 341-9811 and update your calendar, noting that the meeting will be on the **FIRST Wednesday, October 5.** You certainly won't want to miss our October speaker, Professor Martha Hodes (of NYU), who will discuss her award-winning book, "Mourning Lincoln," describing how the President's assassination in April 1865 was viewed by the various segments of this deeply divided nation (North and South). It was more diverse and nuanced than one would first imagine.

October, during the war, seems to be almost as heavy on politics and command changes as battles. In October 1861, the Confederacy signed treaties not with just one, but with **THREE** Indian tribes – the Shawnee, Seneca and Cherokee. The residents of the hill country of Western Virginia, quite dissatisfied by being controlled by the wealthy plantation owners of the Tidewater and Piedmont, vote overwhelmingly to create their own new state, to be named, unsurprisingly, West Virginia.

In October 1862, during his invasion of Kentucky (which would soon result in the Battle of Perryville), General Braxton Bragg found time to attend the inauguration of Richard Hawes as Confederate Governor of the Bluegrass state. Significant command changes included U.S. Grant assuming command of the Department of the Tennessee, Samuel Heintzleman replacing Nathaniel Banks as commander of the troops protecting Washington, and William Rosecrans replacing Don Carlos Buell as commander of the Army of the Ohio.

October 1863, saw Confederate President Jefferson Davis embark on a lengthy political speaking tour of South Carolina and Georgia (on his way to personally investigate the conflicted command situation of his Western forces). In Ohio, Peace Democrat/Copperhead Leader Clement Vallandigham is defeated in the race for Governor by War Democrat John Brough, running as a Republican. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton travels by train to Louisville to personally deliver orders to Grant appointing him Commanding General of the Union Department of the Mississippi ("The West"). At the end of the month, Jefferson Davis approves the request of Nathan Bedford Forrest for an independent command, freeing (emancipating?) him from Bragg.

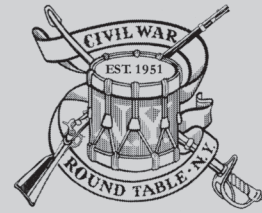
A year later (October 1864), after many reverses and much disappointment, Davis names P.T.G. Beauregard as commander of the Confederate Departments of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Maryland, a slave state that (barely) stayed loyal in 1861, adopts a new Constitution abolishing slavery. Nevada ("The Silver State"), site of the immense Comstock Lode from which many tons of the precious metal is being rapidly extracted, is granted many exemptions to the existing statutory requirements and allowed to become the 36th State of the Union.

If you remember nothing else from this message: **MEETNG, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER FIFTH!**

See You Then!

Paul Weiss

## THE DISPATCH



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

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During business hours.

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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	
<b>Basic</b>	<b>\$60</b>	<b>\$80</b>	
<b>Silver</b>	<b>\$70</b>	<b>\$95</b>	
<b>Gold</b>	<b>\$120</b>	<b>\$170</b>	
<b>Out of Town</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>\$35</b>	(75 miles or more)
<b>Student</b>	<b>\$25</b>		

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.**

## October During the Civil War

### 1861

**3** – Issuing one of the most unfortunate edicts of the year Governor Thomas Moore (Dem. La.) embargoes cotton shipments to New Orleans, the South's greatest port. This way Europe will starve for the South's major crop and will interfere in the War Between the States. It never happens.

**7** – An icon of American history, and a source of many movies, the Pony Express comes to an end after only 18 months of spectacular achievements.

### 1862

**24** – Don is gone and Will fills the bill. Don Carlos Buell, who suffers from McClellan-like slows, is replaced by William Rosecrans.

**25** – In an uncharacteristically brusque letter to George B., President Lincoln inquires “Will you pardon me for asking what the horses of your army have done since the battle of Antietam that fatigues anything?”

### 1863

**2** – The Atlanta *Constitutionalist* poses a Catch-22 problem for civilian farmers. If you take refuge further East you will be censured for leaving home; if you remain home to raise another crop in Confederate lines – as soon as the Union enemy presses forward his supplies will once more be taken by Confederate cavalry or burned up so that the federals cannot use it.

**15** – The Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac make faces at each other at Bull Run. Will this be Third Manassas? No, just some skirmishing.

### 1864

**12** – A well-known jurist dies. Roger Taney (pronounced Tawny) author of one of, or THE, worst decisions in Supreme Court history – you know which one – dies knowing that his beloved South and their way of life, is dying, too.

**19** – The Battle of Belle Grove, Va. – What? Okay. It's also known as Cedar Creek, featuring a famous ride by a famous general.

## A Slave Escapes continued from page 1 Henry (Box) Brown

Henry Brown was determined to escape slavery any way he could. With the help of a free black and a white storeowner, he decided to ship himself from Richmond to Philadelphia in a wooden box.

On March 23, 1849, He squeezed into a three-by-two box labeled “dry goods,” shut his eyes and prayed for salvation. It would not to be an easy trip. Brown and his crate went by wagon, steamboat, and railroad to the home of abolitionist James Miller McKim. He had little to drink and even less to eat, having only taken some biscuits with him. Once, during one leg of the trip, his box was turned upside down on a deck of a steamship where Brown sat on his head for 90 minutes. He did not think he would survive but two passengers turned the box over to use it as a seat and he was righted again.

After 27 weary hours Brown arrived safely in Philadelphia, was uncased, and liberated from his confinement. He became a minor celebrity in New England, but soon had to flee the country after the passage of the stringent 1850 Fugitive Slave Act. He later spent several years in England touring on the stage describing his escape. He eventually returned to the United States in 1875 and worked as a magician. Closing his act he would always demonstrate how he climbed into the same wooden box that had once taken him to freedom.

Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, a 20-year-old slave, fled his job as a ship's caulker and took a train bound for the North. Disguised in a sailor's uniform, he had a free sailor's protection pass loaned to him but he feared that these important papers might be discovered to be phony in that he bore no resemblance to the man listed in the documents. When the conductor came to collect tickets Bailey almost fainted with fear but his papers were given hardly a glance.

He had even more close calls as he headed North via ferry, encountering not only an old friend on board but also a ship's captain he used to work for.

Once in New York he stayed in the home of an anti-slavery

activist and then moved to New Bedford, Massachusetts.

By now you might have guessed that he changed his name to Frederick Douglass and became one of the nation's leading abolitionists. He remained a fugitive slave until 1846 when supporters helped him buy his freedom.

Robert Smalls' experience was even more extraordinary. In 1862 he worked as a trusted wheelman on the CSS *Planter* in Charleston, S.C. On May 13, the white crew took some unauthorized shore leave and Smalls and other slaves commandeered the ship, boarded their families at a point downstream and then steamed into Charleston harbor seeking the U.S. Navy. Smalls had donned the captain's coat and hat and he knew the ship and the harbor. Able to give the proper signals he won safe passage to Fort Sumter where he sped up to ships of the Union blockade. He ran up a white surrender flag, happily, turned over “his” ship to the awed Federal authorities.

Afterward, Smalls helped to recruit some 5,000 blacks for the Union war effort, served as the pilot and then skipper of the *Planter*, now a U.S. Navy vessel, and served several terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

William and Ellen Kraft, held in bondage to two different masters, were fearful of being separated. Ellen, light-skinned, cut her hair, dressed herself in man's clothing and put bandages over her head. Her husband became her loyal man-servant. In 1848 the couple traveled by train and steamer, lodging in top-drawer hotels and hobnobbing with wealthy whites. Being illiterate she wrapped her arm in a sling making her unable to sign tickets and papers. The whole scheme almost came unraveled when a clerk refused to sell the pair a ticket without a signature. Luckily, the captain of their previous ship came by and vouched for them.

They finally arrived in Philadelphia and found shelter with abolitionists until they could continue to Boston. There, great anxiety over slave chasers led them to flee once again, but this time to England, where they wrote of their adventure.

Excerpted from *Wikipedia*



## 59th Annual Battlefield Tour

*Join Us As We Continue Down The "Bloody Roads South" For...*  
**Grant's Overland Campaign 1864 — Part 2!**  
Friday to Sunday...October 14-16, 2016

This year the Round Table will continue to travel the same roads South to **NORTH ANNA, COLD HARBOR** and **PETERSBURG** with the already battered, bruised and bloodied armies of Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee after their colossal struggle in The Wilderness and Spotsylvania. This year's Tour Guides **BOB KRICK** from the Richmond National Battlefield

and **CHRIS BRYCE** from the Petersburg National Battlefield will complete the dramatic story of Grant's Overland Campaign and dig deeply into the offensive strategy and defensive tactics of its heroic commanders.

**To Reserve Your Place:**

Send your \$100 check (made out to "CWRTNY Tour") and your complete contact information with your phone number, cell phone and email address to:

Martin Smith/CWRTNY Tour,  
158 West 81 Street #24,  
New York, NY 10024.



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