


THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 67, No. 2

613th Meeting

October 2017



- Guest:
Joseph L. Owen
Hood's Texas Brigade at Gettysburg
- Cost:
Members: \$50
Non-Members: \$60
- Date:
Wednesday,
October 11th
- 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

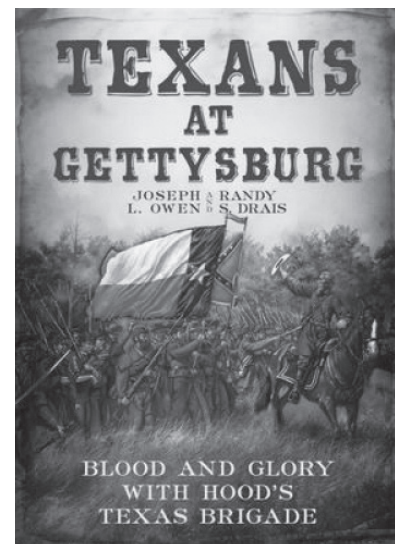
You must call 718-341-9811 by October 4th if you plan to attend the October meeting.

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

Joseph L. Owen

Hood's Texas Brigade at Gettysburg

Our guest speaker is a Ranger at the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park in Johnson City, Texas. After serving 15 years in the U.S. Navy he attended college at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, receiving a B.A. in History and a Masters Degree in Secondary Education. He taught Social Studies for eight years in Oklahoma, Texas and Oregon before changing careers to work for the National Park Service. His first book was *Texans at Gettysburg: Blood and Glory With Hood's Texas Brigade* and he is currently at work on *Texans at Antietam (Sharpsburg): A Terrible Clash of Arms*.



Stephen Foster

Stephen Foster had returned to New York just before the start of the war. Hard times had come for him again and again in the second half of the 1850s as his songwriting income dwindled to a pittance.

...He sank deeper into despondency and drifted to the Lower East Side, where he took up drinking bad rum in the backroom grog shops behind grocery stores.

People on the Bowery recognized the great songwriter even as his condition deteriorated. Some bought him drinks and asked him to sing; others mocked his sad condition. When one woman asked if he was Stephen Foster, he replied, "Yes, the wreck of Stephen Foster."

...Foster continued to decline through 1863. He drifted from one cheap rooming house to another on and around the Bowery, drinking too much, eating too little. Even a backroom bartender

commented that he was "not very delectable society." In January of 1864, with money from a saloonkeeper fan, he managed to take a room in a relatively respectable location by Bowery standards, the New England Hotel, at the northwest corner of the Bowery and Bayard Street. On the morning of Sunday, January 9, Foster stood at his door speaking to a chambermaid, then turned and suddenly collapsed, crashing down into a washing bowl that shattered, gashing his neck. The hotel sent for his friend George Cooper, who lived a few blocks away. Cooper found him on the floor bleeding horribly. As they waited for a doctor, Foster croaked, "I'm done for," and asked for a drink. The doctor crudely stitched the wound and had Foster carried up to Bellevue, where he died on January 13. He was thirty-seven. He'd written some of America's favorite songs, and had thirty-eight cents to his name.

From *City of Sedition* by John Strausbaugh

2017 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2018

• **Monday November 13th** •
West Point Night

• **Monday December 11th** •
James I. (Bud) Robertson

• **Monday January 8th** •
Michael Korda
The Life and Legend of Robert E. Lee

President's Message

Our Civil War Round Table season is in full swing. Our country may be divided, but our group is united in its love of history and passion for the Civil War, or as Ed Bearss would say, "Our War." This year we will have the opportunity to learn from many different perspectives, such as our October speaker from Texas, Joseph Owen. A Navy veteran and current Park Ranger, he will offer insights from his latest book about "Texans at Gettysburg," giving us a unique view of the campaign.

We follow up "Texans at Gettysburg" with our traditional West Point night, featuring a military professor from the academy. In December, we welcome back one of the true legends of Civil War historians, Bud Robertson. He, in turn, will be followed by Michael Korda, of movie royalty discussing his latest book on Robert E. Lee, kicking off our 2018 campaign with Lee/Jackson night.

In connection with our love of history, I would like to bring up an historical jewel in Brooklyn: Green-Wood Cemetery. A number of our members attended the unveiling of the bust of General Thomas Francis Meagher there. The body of the famed general was never recovered after his disappearance in 1867 as governor of Montana. The Waterford County Association of New York raised the funds to erect a monument in his memory. Following the ceremony, we enjoyed a reception in the Chapel and a trolley tour of the cemetery grounds.

The Civil War Round Table of New York will be engaging our own private trolley tour at Green-Wood Cemetery. There are many Civil War personalities interred within the grounds, such as Henry Halleck, Horace Greeley, and Tom Sweeny, along with dozens of other generals and thousands of enlisted men. Please let us know if you are interested in exploring one of the hidden treasures of New York.

Let's enjoy this season and remember what unites us, our love of history and the stories of Civil War.

Mike Connors

PLEASE NOTE!

As per our discussions with the 3 West Club, and as we posited last year, if we switch our dates to the 2nd Monday of the month instead of the 2nd Wednesday, we will be able to keep our dinner costs the same instead of having to raise them. So October will still be the 2nd Wednesday, but starting in November, we switch to Mondays (Nov. 13, Dec. 11th, Jan. 8th, etc.) It's a major change, but it really helps the bottom line - we didn't want to have to charge you more for meals.

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:

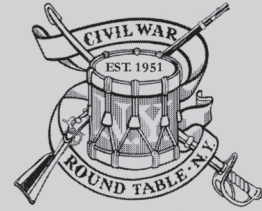
	Individual	Family	
Basic	\$60	\$80	
Silver	\$70	\$95	
Gold	\$120	\$170	
Out of Town	\$25	\$35	(75 miles or more)
Student	\$25		

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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October During the Civil War

1861

21 – The war comes directly to the White House as President Lincoln's good friend, Edward Baker, the senator from Oregon, is killed at the fiasco called the Battle of Ball's Bluff.

24 – A war-created innovation arrives as the first intercontinental telegraph is completed by Western Union, with the help of Randolph Scott and Robert Young.

1862

6 – President Lincoln, upset by the sloth-like General McClellan, tells him and his bodyguard, a.k.a. the Army of the Potomac, to cross the river it is named after and give battle. McClellan, at his audiologist, hears nothing.

8 – The Battle of Chaplin Hills. Huh? All right, the Battle of Perryville and a new and needed hero, the former suspended cadet, Phil Sheridan.

1863

23 – General Grant slogs his way to see what can be done at besieged Chattanooga for its starving garrison. The life-saving Cracker Line has a grand opening in a few days.

30 – In an ironic reversal of role, it is now Federal guns pulverizing Fort Sumter.

1864

1 – The British block-runner Condor runs aground near Fort Fisher, N.C. One passenger, carrying dispatches and \$2,000 in gold, leaves in a small boat that overturns in the surf. Confederate spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow, weighed down by the specie, drowns.

19 – The Battle of Belle Grove (Cedar Creek) finds Jubal Early's early success overturned by the timely return of Phil Sheridan who pushes the Rebels back. Way back. This will be the last major battle in the Shenandoah Valley.

The Russian Princess

Which Civil War general had a granddaughter who married into Russian nobility, was present in Petrograd in 1917, and wrote a memoir of her experiences during the Russian Revolution? Julia Dent Cantacuzene Spiransky-Grant (6 June 1876-4 October 1975) was an American author and historian. She was the eldest child of Frederick Dent Grant and his wife Ida Marie Honore, and the first grandchild of U.S. Grant. In 1899, she married Prince Mikhail Cantacuzene, a Russian general and diplomat. Princess Cantacuzene was the author of three first-person accounts of the Russian Revolution in 1917, as well as a personal historian of the Russian people during that time. As the wife of a Russian nobleman, she was in a primary position to observe both the Imperial and Bolshevik positions during the Revolution.

This query was posited by member Tom Mosely

The Finest and the Bravest

The nicknames for the Police and Fire Departments originated around the Civil War, derived from phrases already in use to praise the valor of soldiers.

The firefighters' nickname most likely came from the term "the bravest of the brave." An early mention of this phrase appeared in the N.Y. Times on August 27, 1862; it was used in a toast to Firefighter John Downey, a Union captain who had been a prisoner of war in Richmond, Va.

During the Draft Riots the next July, the newspaper described Fire Chief John Decker as "one of the bravest among the brave." The "bravest" phrase had already been used for decades to honor distinguished military officers. In the early 19th century, Napoleon called Marshal Michel Ney "le plus braves des braves," a sentiment that soon thereafter appeared in French odes to medieval knights. In a letter dated September 7, 1862, Winfield Scott, the Union general, referred to the late Gen. Philip Kearny as "the bravest among the brave."

The Police Department's slogan also came from a phrase with military origins: "the finest police force on the planet," an

adaptation of Gen. Joseph Hooker's 1863 claim that the Union forces were "the finest army on the planet."

N Y Times May 7, 2017 FYI Column by Keith Williams

A Few Words From Montgomery, Alabama

We have entered upon the career of independence, and it must be inflexibly pursued. Through many years of controversy with our late associates of the Northern States, we have vainly endeavored to secure tranquility and obtain respect for the rights for which we were entitled. As a necessity, not a choice, we have resorted to the remedy of separation, and henceforth our energies must be directed to the conduct of our own affairs, and the perpetuity of the Confederacy which we have formed. If a just perception of mutual interest shall permit us peaceably to pursue our separate political career, my most earnest desire will have been fulfilled. But if this is denied to us, and the integrity of our territory and jurisdiction be assailed, it will but remain for us with firm resolve to appeal to arms and invoke the blessing of Providence on a just cause.

Should reason guide the action of the Government from which we have separated, a policy so detrimental to the civilized world, the Northern States included, could not be dictated by even the strongest desire to inflict injury upon us; but, if the contrary should prove true, a terrible responsibility will rest upon it, and the suffering of millions will bear testimony to the folly and wickedness of our aggressors.

Jefferson Davis February 18, 1861

A Few Words From Washington, D.C.

Fellow Countrymen: At this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement somewhat in detail of a course to be pursued seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations

continued from page 3

have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself, and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it, all sought to avert it. While the inaugural was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war – insurgent agents were in the city seeking to destroy it without war - seeking to dissolve the Union and divide effects by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would accept war rather than let it perish. And the war came.

One eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was somehow the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate,

and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union, even by war; while the government claimed no right to do more than restrict the territorial enlargement of it.

Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the conflict might cease when, or even before the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes his aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered – that of neither has been answered fully.

...With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him whom shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan- to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

Abraham Lincoln, Second Inaugural March 4, 1863



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OF NEW YORK

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