

THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 67, No. 1

612th Meeting

September 2017



• Guest:
Williamson Murray
A Savage War

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

• Date:
Wednesday,
September 13th

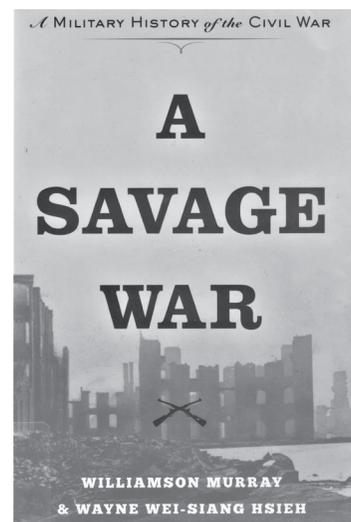
• Place:
The Three West Club,
3 West 51st Street

• 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 8th if you
plan to attend the
September meeting.
We need to know how
many people to order
food for.*

Williamson Murray A Savage War

Our guest this month received his undergraduate degree in history and PhD in military-diplomatic history from Yale University. The author or co-author of 25 books on military history, he has taught at the U.S. Air War College, the U.S. Military Academy, and the Naval War College. He also served as a Secretary of the Navy Fellow at the Navy War College, the Centennial Visiting Professor at the London School for Economics, the Matthew C. Horner Professor of Military Theory at the Marine Corps University, the Charles Lindbergh Chair at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum, and the Harold K. Johnson Professor of Military History at the Army War College. As of 2012 he is professor emeritus of history at Ohio State University.



An Unusual Taste of the War Owned up to by a Missouri Confederate Volunteer

You have heard from a great many people who did something in the war, is it not fair and right that you listen a little moment to one who started out to do something in it, but didn't? Thousands entered the war, got just a taste of it, and then stepped out again permanently. These, by their very numbers, are respectable and are therefore entitled to a sort of voice –not a loud one but a modest one, not a boastful one but an apologetic one. They ought not to be allowed much space among better people – people who did something. I grant that, but they ought at least to be allowed to state why they didn't do anything and also explain the process by which they didn't do anything. Surely this kind of light must have a sort of value.

Out West there was a good deal of confusion in men's minds during the first months of the great trouble- a good deal of unsettledness, of leaning first this way, then that, then the other way. It was hard for us to get our bearings. I call to mind an instance of this. I was piloting on the Mississippi when the news came that South Carolina had gone out of the Union on the 20th of December, 1860. My pilot mate was a New Yorker. He was strong for the Union; so was I. But he would not listen to me with any patience; my loyalty was smirched, to his eye, because my father had owned slaves. I said in palliation of this dark fact that I had heard my father say, some years before he died, that slavery was a great wrong and that he would free the solitary Negro he then owned if he could think it right to give away the property of the family when he was so straightened in means. My mate retorted that a mere impulse was nothing – anyone could pretend to a good impulse, and went on decrying my Unionism and libeling my ancestry. A month later the secession atmosphere had

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2017 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2017

• **Wednesday October 11th** •
Joe Owen
*Hood's Texas Brigade
at Gettysburg*

• **Monday November 13th** •
TBA

• **Monday December 11th** •
Bud Robertson

President's Message

We are entering our 66th year and th are proud to be the second oldest Civil War Round Table in the country.

We hope to continue our dedication in providing our members with access to the greatest Civil War authors, historians, and speakers, and run the organization in a fiscally responsible manner.

We remind you that in order to keep costs low we will be moving our regular meeting night to the second Monday of the month starting in November. We are doing so because the 3 West Club will keep costs down if we accommodate them by using a less expensive night.

We hope to have a productive and exciting year, starting off with Williamson Murray talking about, "The Savage War," and continue with our traditions of West Point Night, Lee Jackson Night, the Barondess/Lincoln Award, and the Fletcher Pratt Award.

We will have the honor of General Grant (Dr. Curt Fields) announcing his candidacy for the presidency nearly 150 years to the date.

We will also have a discussion as to whether Jefferson Davis should have been indicted, with the case being made by attorney John Fazio.

Please remember our Battlefield Tour in October, with a chance to learn about the Petersburg/Appomattox Campaign. Look up our Tour Guides Chris Bryce and Tracy Chernault on our website.

Finally, please remember that we can only continue our organization if we recruit new members. Please let your friends know about the Club and share our enthusiasm. Our goal should be to keep the organization going for another hundred years, and have fun doing it.

Let us all look forward to an exciting and educational year.

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 this month and October will still be the 2nd Wednesdays, 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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Telephone CWRT/NY at (718) 341-9811

During business hours.

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August/September During the Civil War

1861

August 8 – Secretary of War Simon Cameron tells Ben Butler that the slaves escaping from Confederate slave owners can now not be returned to their disloyal owners. The Fugitive Slave Act does not apply to those who have left the Union.

September 13 – By now it is clear that R.E. Lee's plan had failed miserably in the Cheat Mountain campaign. But it is hoped he would do somewhat better later on.

1862

August 24 – The *Alabama*, a simple merchant ship according to the allegedly neutral Brits, receives its armaments near the Azores and begins its torment of Union shipping.

September 13 – The “lost order” is found by the wrong guys and the war is altered considerably. A stand-off is called a victory and a proclamation will be issued.

1863

August 6 – President Davis writes to the S.C. governor that he would do all possible for the safety and relief of Charleston, “which we pray will never be polluted by the footsteps of a lustful, relentless inhuman foe.” That “inhuman foe” will be back next year.

September 20 – General George Thomas, the loyal Virginian, earns his nom de guerre at Snodgrass Hill.

1864

August 17 – *In re* the siege of Petersburg, Grant hears from the president to “hold on with a bull-dog grip and chew and choke as much as possible.” Ulysses chews and chokes as directed.

September 1 – J.B. Hood plays Hell in Georgia as he destroys munitions in his haste to evacuate Atlanta. The city goes up in flames and even Tara is evacuated.

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considerably thickened on the lower Mississippi and I became a rebel; so did he. We were together in New Orleans on the 26th of January when Louisiana went out of the Union. He did his full share of the rebel shouting but was bitterly opposed to letting me do mine. He said I came from bad stock – of a father who had been willing to set slaves free. In the following summer he was piloting a Federal gunboat and shouting for the Union again and I was in the Confederate army. I held his note for some borrowed money. He was one of the most upright men I ever knew but he repudiated that note without hesitation because I was a rebel and the son of a man who owned slaves.

The last camp which we fell back upon was in a hollow near the village of Florida where I was born, in Monroe County. Here we were warned one day that a Union colonel was sweeping down on us with a whole regiment at his heel. This looked decidedly serious. Our boys went apart and consulted; then we went back and told the other companies present that the war was a disappointment to us and we were going to disband. They were getting ready themselves to fall back on some place or other. And we were waiting only for General Tom Harris, who was expected to arrive any moment, so they tried to persuade us to wait a little while but the majority of us said no, we were accustomed to falling back and didn't need any of Tom Harris's help, we could get along perfectly well without him and save time, too. So about half of our fifteen, including myself, mounted and left on the instant; the others yielded to persuasion and stayed – stayed through the war.

An hour later we met General Harris on the road, with two or three people in his company, his staff probably, but we could not tell; none of them were in uniform; uniforms had not come into vogue among us yet. Harris ordered us back but we told him there was a Union colonel coming with a whole regiment in his wake and it looked as if there was going to be a disturbance, so we had concluded to go home. He raged a little but it was of no use, our minds were made up. We had done our share, had killed one man, exterminated one army, such as it was; let him go and kill the rest and that would end the war. I did not see that brisk young general again until last year; then he was wearing white hair and whiskers.

In time I came to know that Union colonel whose coming frightened me out of the war and crippled the Southern cause to

that extent- General Grant. I came within a few hours of seeing him when he was as unknown as I was myself; at a time when anybody could have said, "Grant?- Ulysses S. Grant? I do not remember hearing the name before."

It seems difficult to realize that there was once a time when such a remark could be rationally made but there was, and I was within a few miles of the place and the occasion, too, though proceeding in the other direction.

...I could have become a soldier myself if I had waited. I had got part of it learned, I knew more about retreating than the man that invented retreating.

From *The Private History of a Campaign That Failed*
by Mark Twain

A Letter to Paul Weiss

The Civil War Trust has reached the significant milestone of saving over 34,000 acres of endangered battlefields, and we could not have done it without you. Your steadfast generosity and support over the years has been essential as we fulfill our mission. You are a true friend of the Trust, a friend who has continued to support our mission of battlefield preservation and Civil War education through both the good economic times as well as the downturns. Thank you for your incredible generosity and for your over 100 gifts to the Trust.

I would like to honor you as a member of the Century Corps of the Steadfast. The Steadfast is an elite group of our supporters who have given more than 100 lifetime gifts. Please accept the enclosed certificate as a token of my appreciation to you.

Jim Lightizer

President

New York City in Recession

As the businessmen had all feared, the start of the war cast New York City into a quick, steep depression. The transatlantic cotton trade on which so many of its bankers, merchants, and others had thrived for so long nearly vanished. Coastal shipping in the port abruptly fell by half, and as skittish maritime insurers hiked the rates on international shipping under the American flag, many of the city's ship owners had to sell to foreigners at bargain prices. The East River shipyards, ironworks, and machine shops went quiet, the merchant marine idle. The Southern market that had always been so hungry for New York goods from clothing to carriages to hardware to edibles was now shut off. Overstocked merchants slashed prices: "Dry goods at marvelous sacrifices," the *Tribune* reported. "Clothing at next to no price. Beef, pork and mutton at almost nothing. Everything you have to sell going for next to nothing."

Southerners made good on their threat to default on their more than \$150 million in debts, causing almost one hundred of the city's dry goods firms to fail in the first six months of 1861. The Southern buyers and vacationers who had always helped keep the hotels, boarding houses, and theaters filled disappeared. "Even the ice industry was crippled by lack of orders from the South," Edwin Burrows and Mike Wallace noted in *Gotham*. It wasn't just owners and bosses who suffered, of course; by midsummer some thirty thousand workers had lost their jobs, one reason why so many workingmen signed up with the army so eagerly in 1861. Editor James McMaster, who had his biases, claimed that four of five New Yorkers who enlisted did so out of economic need.

From *City of Sedition* by John Strausbaugh

CWRTNY 60TH ANNUAL BATTLEFIELD TOUR

"Petersburg...And The Start Of The Appomattox Campaign"

Thursday to Sunday | October 12-15, 2017

For the past two years, we've traveled the "Bloody Roads South" with the valiant Army of the Potomac. This year we will continue with the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia as they face each other for 10 long months at Petersburg and City Point. We have added an extra day so our tour will cover the Battles of the Crater and Forts Steadman, Gregg, Whitworth, and Mahone...we will travel to Dinwiddie, the White Oak Road, and Five Forks... plus we will break through the lines with the Federals at Petersburg...visit A.P. Hill's death site...and follow Lincoln into Petersburg as Grant and Meade begin their pursuit of Lee on his final retreat!

TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE:

Send your \$100 check (Made out to "CWRTNY") 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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OF NEW YORK

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