

# THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 63, No. 4

575th Meeting

December 2013



• Guest:  
**Patrick A. Schroeder**  
*The 5th New York, Duryee's  
Fire Zouaves.*

• Cost:  
**Members: \$40**  
**Non-Members: \$50**

• Date:  
**Wednesday,  
December 11<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  
December 4<sup>th</sup>, if you  
plan to attend the  
December meeting.*

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

## **Patrick A. Schroeder** The 5th New York, Duryee's Fire Zouaves.

Our December guest has a B.S. from Shepherd College (Shepherdstown, WV), and an M.A. in Civil War history from Virginia Tech. He worked as a living history interpreter at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park from 1986-1993, and in 1993, wrote *Thirty Myths About Lee's Surrender*, which is currently in its twelfth printing. Patrick has written, edited and/or contributed to more than twenty-five Civil War titles including: *Recollections and Reminiscences of Old Appomattox*; *Tar Heels*; *Sailor's Creek*; *Pennsylvania Bucktails*; and *The Life of General Ely S. Parker*, among others. He has been the historian at Appomattox Court House National Park since 2002.

## **Civil War Generals' Graves**

Arthur Loux has discovered the location of the graves of some 1,000 Civil War generals and 1400 brevet generals. He has created documents for each state including a photo of the graves and directions to the cemetery plot. If you are interested in these locations, email Arthur at [Alouxks@yahoo.com](mailto:Alouxks@yahoo.com) for more information.

## **Arlington National Cemetery**

As the war had heated up in June 1862, Congress passed a law that empowered commissioners to assess and collect taxes on real estate in "insurrectionary districts." This statute was meant not only to raise revenue for the war, but also to punish turncoats like Robert E. Lee. If the taxes were not paid in person, commissioners were authorized to sell the land. Authorities levied a tax of \$92.07 on the Lee estate that year. Mary Lee, stuck in Richmond because of the fighting and her deteriorating health, dispatched her cousin Philip R. Fendall to pay the bill. But when Fendall presented himself before the commissioners in Alexandria, they said they would accept money only from Mary Lee herself. Declaring the property in default, they put it up for sale.

The auction took place on January 11, 1864. The sole bid came from the federal government which offered \$26,800, well under the estate's assessed value of \$34,100. According to the certificate of sale, Arlington's new owner intended to reserve the property "for government use, for war, military,

charitable and educational purposes."

The fighting during the Forty Days' Campaign, from the Wilderness to Petersburg produced some 82,000 casualties in just over a month and Montgomery Meigs cast about for a new graveyard to accommodate the rising tide of bodies. His eye fell upon Arlington.

The first soldier laid to rest there was Pvt. William Christman, 21, of the 67th Pennsylvania Infantry, who was buried in a plot on Arlington's northeast corner on May 13, 1864. A farmer newly recruited into the army, Christman never knew a day of combat. Like others who would join him at Arlington, he was felled by disease; he died of peritonitis on May 11th.

From *Smithsonian* November 2009

## 2014 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2014

• **January 8<sup>th</sup>** •  
Timothy Sedore  
Virginia's Confederate  
Monuments

• **February 12<sup>th</sup>** •  
Barondess Lincoln Award

• **March 12<sup>th</sup>** •  
TBA

## President's Message

Victory at Chattanooga! Three Union Armies—The Army of the Cumberland, The Army of the Potomac, and The Army of the Tennessee—come together under the direct command of Ulysses S. Grant at the Gateway City to the South and achieve a total reversal of fortune! The Confederates are now in retreat into Georgia. What will happen next as the victorious Federal armies in the West prepare to enter the backdoor to the lower South? How soon before this terrible suffering ends for all Americans?

Something strange happened to me last month. As I was speaking to a well-known author and historian, he didn't really know about The Civil War Round Table of New York. I couldn't believe it. I was shocked and disappointed. How could he not know about our wonderful organization?

Haven't we been around for the last 62 years? Haven't we had monthly meetings with some of the greatest Civil War authors, historians and legends since 1951? Haven't we bestowed the most prestigious book award to some of the greatest Civil War writers of the last 60 years? (In fact, that's how I first became aware of the Round Table by reading on the back of a "book jacket" that that book won the Fletcher Pratt Book Award from "The Civil War Round Table of New York!")

So what can we do—what can "all of us" do—to make sure that this little gem of an organization, this club that was founded by the members of the Lost Generation, who recruited members of The GI Generation, who is currently membered by The Silent Generation and managed by the Baby Boomer Generation, who is trying to attract new members from Generation X and our upcoming Millennial Generation, continues into the unknown future?

I have some ideas, and I'm sure you do, too. The simplest thing would be to talk about what we do on the second Wednesday of every month from September to June. We all need to share our interests and find other individuals who have a curiosity to expand their minds, increase their knowledge, and enjoy being with others who just can't get their fill of The Civil War. It's up to us—"all of us"—to make sure the Round Table continues.

Please share what you love...and tell your friends that you can't wait to attend our next meeting with Pat Schroeder, Chief Historian from Appomattox Court House, in December! See you soon.

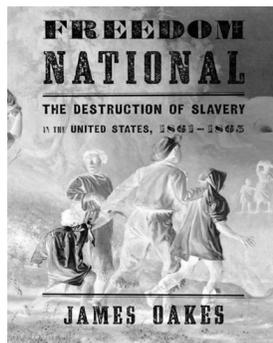
— Martin Smith

## Book Review

### Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States

by James Oakes

Protections for slavery which were written into the Constitution by the founders became some of the most formidable obstacles to its abolition after the Civil War. They had compromised with slavery because of their assumption of its inevitable demise. Classical political economists such as Adam Smith held that slave economies were backward, inefficient and thus could not compete with the productivity and dynamism of free labor. By the mid 19th century, we encounter such statements as "The slave holders were standing fast against the inexorable tide of human history. Their way of life was doomed; the entire world was turning against slavery," and "slavery is a hideous anachronism coming to us out of the barbarism and old dead night of the past." In *Freedom National* Professor James Oakes provides the basis for discussion, analysis, and synthesis. He argues that political abolition played a crucial role in the founding of the Republican party,



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## December during the Civil War

### 1861

**9** – The Senate, concluding that the generals don't know how to conduct battles, set up the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War. The head of Charles P. Stone will soon roll.

**10** – Under the heading of wasted motion, the Congress in Richmond admits Kentucky to the Confederate States of America. The same deal applies to Missouri.

### 1862

**5** – Grant's cavalry receives a setback at Coffeesville, Mississippi. Skirmishes also occur at Sanka and De Caff, Louisiana.

**17** – U.S. Grant, in Holly Springs, MS, issues his infamous general order no. 11, evicting the Israelites from his department of Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi. Post-war he suffers from a terrible case of amnesia over the whole thing.

### 1863

**7** – President Jefferson Davis, admitting the CSA has had a rough year, condemns the savage ferocity of the federals... Nor has less relenting warfare been waged by these pretended friends of human rights and liberties against the unfortunate negroes." Sure.

**30** – The recalcitrant governor, Zebulon Vance, writes to Jefferson Davis concerning discontent in North Carolina. "I have concluded that it will be perhaps impossible to remove it except by making some effort to negotiate with the enemy." Don't bank on it, Zeb.

### 1864

**5** – Denying that the appointment had to do with his love of fishing, President Lincoln names Salmon P. Chase chief justice succeeding the late (but not lamented) Roger. B. Taney (pronounced Tawney).

**23** – The attack of the federal fleet against Fort Fisher, N.C. falters due to storms, heavy seas, miscalculations, errors, and especially, General Benjamin Butler.

## Orson and Gideon

In an interview with Dick Cavett on the Dick Cavett show, actor/director Orson Welles revealed nonchalantly that he was the great-grandson of Gideon Welles, and had known a dinner party hostess from the American Civil War era familiar with his great-grandfather.

This revelation has, however, become a debunked myth and this false tale possibly originated from that appearance on Cavett's show

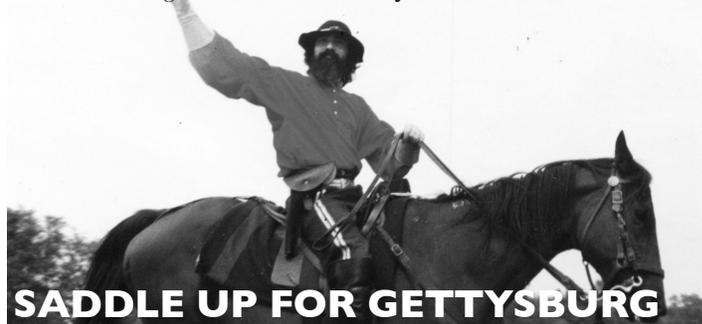
From Wikipedia

Sounds like something in the Dispatch, no?

## Another Look at George B. McClellan

Historian Ethan Rafuse, whose study of General McClellan's politics is both thorough and sympathetic, concludes that "the decisions that prevented McClellan from taking full advantage of the opportunity to destroy Lee's army, which his conduct of operations had created, were also the consequence of the fact that such an outcome, although desirable, was not critical to McClellan's strategic vision in September 1862. [He believed] it was enough that he had saved the North from the consequences of political folly and placed himself in position to carry out the next step in restoring the ascendancy of reason to the Union war effort." The ascendancy of reasons, of course, required his own ascent to a dominant position within the administration. In the end, no amount of field experience could overcome the fundamental defect in McClellan's approach to war: his conviction that every operation had to contend not only with the enemy in front but with enemies in the rear. Every critical calculation he made in the field was calibrated not only for its effect on the Rebel army but for its possible impact on McClellan's quest for power in Washington. He considered Radicalism to be as dangerous to the preservation of the republic as a successful Southern secession. No military victory was worth winning if it redounded to the benefit of a Radical regime. That was why he both considered his defeat on the Peninsula "providential" and refused to renew the Battle of Antietam on September 18. He had already won victory enough to demonstrate his indispensability and advance his campaign against Lincoln's Radical advisers. Why risk that standing by attacking Lee's army, when a more decisive triumph would merely benefit a Radical administration? Better to see whether the work of his supporters in Washington succeeded in getting Stanton turned out, or the mid-term elections produced a "conservative" triumph. No general who thought that way would ever defeat Robert E. Lee, whose concentration on military necessity was ruthless and uncompromised.

From *The Long Road to Antietam* by Richard Slotkin.



## SADDLE UP FOR GETTYSBURG

### 57TH ANNUAL BATTLEFIELD TRIP

September 12th, 13th + 14th, 2014

It's boots and saddles as this will be an all-cavalry tour on the battlefield of Gettysburg and beyond. See where J.E.B. Stuart, G.A. Custer, John Buford and Wade Hampton clashed saber to saber. On one day, you will become real horse soldiers as you ride on horseback (or if you prefer, a horse-drawn carriage) over the battlefield. We will ride to the sound of the guns with our tour guide Jim Hessler (author of *Sickles at Gettysburg*, and the upcoming *Custer at Gettysburg*).

So if you want to have a good time, jine the cavalry with a \$100 deposit to reserve your mount as we ride into history. Send your check to CWRNTY Tour 139-33 250th Street, Rosedale, NY 11422

*Continued from page 2*

its anti-slavery policies and the coming of the Civil War. He also contends that federal policy makers came to rely on the loyalty of the slaves and notes further how important the legacy of slave resistance was to the destruction of slavery. The real moral dilemma of the Civil War rises from the fact that it was about slavery. The tragedy of the war lies not in its pointlessness but in its necessity. He even develops a scenario which contends that had Lincoln been defeated in 1864, the war would have ended with a Union victory but without emancipation. Had that been the case, when would slavery have ended in the United States? This book is a major contribution to 19th century American history and a must read, particularly for those interested in chattel slavery, emancipation and abolition. The reader will become aware of the elements and processes leading up to the 13th Amendment. The facts and contexts are well clarified. The Constitutional framers compromised their anti-slavery principles in order to gain support for the document and the creation of a new nation. However, as the author further notes, this compromise became a powerful barrier to abolition. The argument is presented with lucidity, scholarship and impeccable documentation. His book is a balanced effort to penetrate beneath the surface of personalities and events to reach the dynamics of the Civil War, emancipation and slavery. It is an invaluable source of reference now and will be for years to come.

*by Leonard A. James, EdD*



# THE DISPATCH

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
OF NEW YORK

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

## Dues are due

If you haven't already paid your dues, please send your checks in now. After October, the price rises to \$50. 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>First Category</b>	<b>\$40</b>	<b>\$60</b>
<b>Second Category</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$75</b>
<b>Third Category</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$150</b>

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.

Out-of-towners (75 miles or more) and students (full or part time and under 25) pay \$15.00 unless you are covered by your parent's payment. If you joined up between January and March 2013, you owe only \$15.00. If you joined up in April, May, or June, you get a freebie.

**Send dues to Treasurer Bud Livingston  
71-16 66th Street, Glendale, NY 11385**

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