

THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 64, No. 5

586th Meeting

January 2015



• Guest:
Chris Mackowski
The Death of Stonewall Jackson

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

• Date:
Wednesday,
January 14th

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

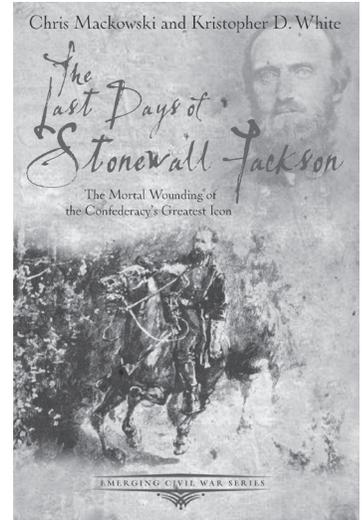
• Time:
Dinner at 6:00 pm,
Doors open 5:30 pm,
Cash Bar 5:30 – 7 pm

*You must call
718-341-9811 by
January 7th, if you
plan to attend the
January meeting.*

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

Chris Mackowski The Death of Stonewall Jackson

Our guest is a professor of journalism and mass communications at St. Bonaventure University and the managing editor of The Emerging Civil War series. He also works as a historian for the National Park Service at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park where he gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields: Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania, as well as the building where Stonewall Jackson died. He is the author of books on the battles of the Wilderness, and Chancellorsville, and with Kris White, co-author of *Chancellorsville's Forgotten Front: The Battles of Fredericksburg and Salem Church*.



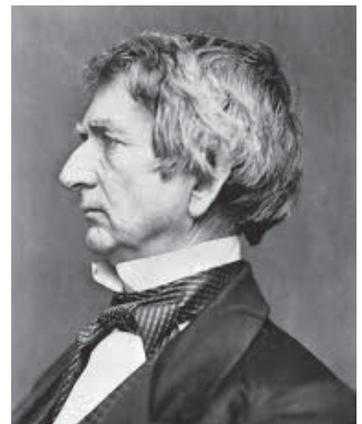
Seward

As they bantered across the dinner table, the education of Henry Adams had just begun. He watched the governor closely. A little gray man of sixty with a “slouching, slender figure; a head like a wise macaw; a beaked nose; shaggy eyebrows; unorderly hair and clothes; hoarse voice; off-hand manner; free talk, and a perpetual cigar, not to mention a colorful vocabulary in the company of men. There was no awe in him, and no reverence, either. In the coming war, Lincoln would ask a cursing mule driver if he belonged to the Episcopal Church. When the startled man replied that he was a Methodist, the president would say, “I thought you must be an Episcopalian,

because you swear just like Governor Seward, who is a churchwarden.”

From *Our One Common Country* by James B. Conroy

(Worthwhile reading)



2015 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2015

• February 11th •

Baroness Lincoln Award
Harold Holzer
Lincoln and the Power of the Press

• March 11th •

4 Women Undercover
in the Civil War
Karen Abbott

• April 8th •

The Funeral of President Lincoln
Richard Sloan

President's Message

The New Year...1865! Surely the Confederacy is shaking visibly. Would Grant let the great victories in Nashville and Savannah go to waste in idleness during the winter? No, the power to bring down the Rebels forever was now in his hands. So what does Grant do? Replace Butler with Terry and capture Fort Fisher with Porter in command of the naval bombardment. Bring Schofield and the XXIII Corps east to join up with Terry, move inland into North Carolina, and wait for Sherman. Send A.J. Smith with 16,000 men to Canby to take Mobile and then move north into Alabama. Have Thomas send Wilson with 12,000 superbly mounted cavalry into Alabama knowing that nothing in the South could stop them—not even Forrest. Move Stoneman and 4,000 cavalry from East Tennessee through the mountains into South Carolina and loosen things up as Sherman marches north through the Carolinas. Yes, the end for the South was very near—if only they knew that they had already been defeated!

Happy New Year 2015! May this new year bring us all peace, prosperity and the promise for a better world. So how does The Civil War Round Table of New York fit into this new year?

Let me answer like this: Where can you find a vibrant, growing, 64-year-old organization that is dedicated to the study of Civil War history? That meets religiously 10 months of the year? That brings **the finest scholars, the brightest minds, the best communicators** on the Civil War to you? That searches for the truth of our history? That debates both the causes and results of this great cataclysm? That is open to new ideas and is grateful for vigorous discussion?

We believe The Civil War Round Table of New York is “the” place that you and your friends and your family want to be on the second Wednesday of the month from September to June. **That's why you are a member:** A proud member, a contributing member, an active member.

And that's why I invite all our members and their guests to join us on January 14th for LEE/JACKSON NIGHT! **We'll start 2015 with one of the best speakers and best communicators you will ever hear—Chris Mackowski.** Chris will excite us, move us, and tell us all about “The Death of Stonewall Jackson.”

Please pick up the phone, **call 718-341-9811 right now, and reserve your place for LEE/JACKSON NIGHT** with Chris Mackowski. Don't miss the “real thing” this January 14th.

See you soon!

– Marty Smith

A Comment on The Emancipation Proclamation.

Whether [Henry] Raymond genuinely influenced Lincoln, or merely echoed the president's own inclination to proceed just as the editor [N Y Times] advised remains difficult to ascertain. All Lincoln promised Raymond in his acknowledgment of December 7 was to “consider and remember your suggestions.” But when he began composing his final proclamation, this supremely talented writer, in fact suppressed his proven gift for lofty expression. Instead he created a dry, legalistic document that one liberal European newspaperman dismissively likened to “the trite summonses that one lawyer sends to an opposing lawyer.” The journalist's name was Karl Marx.

From *Lincoln and the Power of the Press* by Harold Holzer

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January during the Civil War

1862

1 – Happy New Year. Two weary men trudge up the gangplank of *HMS Rinaldo* in Providence's (Mass.) harbor. The CSA's much delayed emissaries to England and France, Mason and Slidell, are finally heading to London and Paris (to no avail).

9 – Neither Fighting Henry Halleck or the pugnacious Don Carlos Buell, are ready to advise President Lincoln when they will get into action in the West.

1863

1 – The final Emancipation Proclamation is now in effect and all Hell breaks loose not only in the Confederacy but also in the rank and file in many outfits of the Union army.

26 – President Lincoln writes to his new commander of the beleaguered Army of the Potomac, Joe Hooker, "What I ask of you is military success. And I will risk the dictatorship."

1864

2 – Major General Francis Herron takes over as commander of Union forces on the Rio Grande. He will win the Congressional Medal of Honor but die in poverty and be buried in a pauper's grave in Calgary Cemetery in Queens.

22 – Sporting a less than household name, Isaac Murphy is sworn in as provisional governor of Arkansas.

1865

4 – Another attempt will be made to overwhelm Fort Fisher, but this time under a "real" soldier, Alfred H. Terry, and not the honorable Benjamin F. Butler, of New Orleans fame.

31 – The House passes the 13th Amendment 119 to 56 (8 not voting), paving the way for Daniel Day Lewis to play Lincoln.

58th Annual Battlefield Tour

Join Us As We Cross The Rapidan For...

Grant's Overland Campaign 1864 -- Part 1!

October 16-18, 2015

This year the Round Table will continue its tradition and travel South by bus as we follow Ulysses S. Grant, George Gordon Meade and the mighty Army of the Potomac with almost 120,000 Union soldiers as they encounter Robert E. Lee and over 60,000 members of the valiant Army of Northern Virginia. Oh, what a dark and deadly wrestling match this clash of arms will bring! Our Tour Guide will be the incomparable **FRANK O'REILLY** who will lead us into the Wilderness, challenge us at Spotsylvania, and guide us to North Anna.

To Reserve Your Place:

Send your \$100 check (made out to "CWRTNY") and complete contact information with phone and email) to: *Martin Smith/CWRTNY Tour, 158 West 81 St. #24, New York, NY 10024.*

Dorsey Pender

Pender probably did not know it, but in the thick of fighting (Cedar Mountain) he had something of an unofficial guardian angel by his side. At the suggestion of some of the other staffers, Captain Sam Ashe took it upon himself to "keep a good lookout on General Pender himself, and try to protect him." Pender had a well known disposition, or as Ashe described it, an "intrepidity" for throwing himself into battle wantonly, if not recklessly. Thus, Ashe stood near his general, concerned that his commander "might expose himself unnecessarily," although it was unclear what he thought he would do in such an eventuality.

Ashe's proximity allowed him to see the general in action. He described his commander as average in height, rather thin, weighing no more than 135 pounds. Ashe thought that the general's "dark complexion" accentuated his "very dark eyes, with "clear cut" features and a "countenance" that "bespoke confidence."

Pender impressed his aide in other ways, too. On the battlefield at Cedar Mountain, Ashe particularly noticed his superior's "coolness" under fire and characterized him as exhibiting an "entire absence of excitement or emotion," even in the chaos of combat that swirled around him. Regardless of what was transpiring, General Pender was calm and maintained a presence of mind that often allowed him to penetrate the fog of war.

Pender's personal performance on the field at Cedar Mountain contrasted favorably with others around him facing the same circumstances. When Maryland native James J. Archer galloped up to the North Carolinian, the former was clearly enjoying less equanimity than his colleague. In the extremes of the moment Archer blurted, "Pender, do you curse in times like this?" Unfazed, Pender calmly replied that he did not. "Well, I know it is wrong," the animated brigadier and prewar attorney retorted, "but I be d---d if I can help it." Dorsey did not remonstrate, perhaps believing that his own example would suffice, besides both men had more pressing duties to perform.

From Confederate General William Dorsey Pender The Hope of Glory

By Brian Steel Wills

Civil War Dentistry

Out of necessity came many improvements and advances in the dental field. One example in the field of oral surgery was invention. For instance, Dr. James Baxter Bean, a dentist serving the Confederate Army perfected the inter-dental splint made of hard rubber, and was allowed to instruct his fellow surgeons in all large Southern hospitals in his procedure. Reactions to the injuries and conditions during the Civil War propelled dentistry from its infancy in 1850s and 1860s to the profession we know today. Dentists were allowed to try new treatments, share ideas, and expound on the theory that teeth were essential to an individual's total health.

From *Some Aspects of Civil War Dentistry*
by Allen R. Crawford, Jr. D.M.D.

Courtesy of the CWRT of Eastern Pennsylvania

Grant and Sherman as seen by Stephen Vincent Benet

By the swollen flood
Of the Mississippi, stumpy Grant is a mole
Gnawing at Vicksburg. He has been blocked four times
But he will carry that beaver-dam at last.
There is no brilliant lamp in that dogged mind
And no conceit of brilliance to shake the hand,
But hand and mind can use the tools that they get
This long way out of Galena.

Sherman is there
And Sherman loves him and finds him hard to make out,
In Sherman's impatient fashion-the quick, sharp man
Seeing ten thousand things where the slow sees one
And yet with a sort of younger brother awe
At the infinite persistence of that slow will
--They make a good pair of hunting dogs, Grant and Sherman,
The nervous, explosive, passionate, slashing hound
And the quiet, equable, deadly holder-on,
Faded-brown as a cinnamon-bear in Spring –
See them like that, the brown dog and the white dog,
Calling them back and forth through the scrubby woods
After the little white scout of Victory.

From *John Brown's Body*



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OF NEW YORK

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