

# THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 64, No. 1

582nd Meeting

September 2014



• Guest:  
**Edward H. Bonekemper**  
Grant: A Victor Not a Butcher

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

• Date:  
**Wednesday,**  
**September 10<sup>th</sup>**

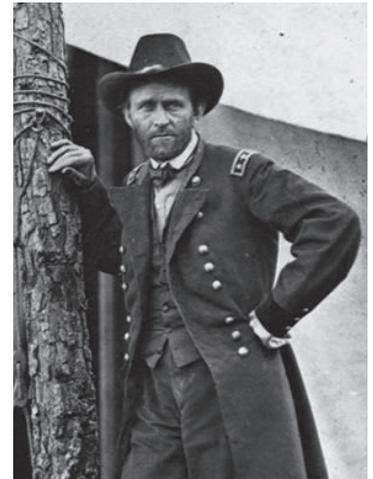
• Place:  
**The Three West Club,**  
**3 West 51st Street,**

• 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, if you plan to attend the September meeting. We need to know how many people to order food for.*

## Edward H. Bonekemper Grant: A Victor Not a Butcher

Our September guest has a BA from Muhlenburg College, an MA from Old Dominion University and a JD from Yale University. He became an adjunct lecturer in military history at his original alma mater, Muhlenburg, and for 8 years (2003-2010) he taught military history – and writing skills- on the Civil War and World War II.



Among his books are: *McClellan and Failure: a Study of Civil War Fear, Incompetence, and Worse*, and *Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian*.

## The Price of Slavery

As a consequence, an American dream of freedom and opportunity was inseparable from a white illusion of superiority bolstered by the subjugation and “animalization” of black people. That is, slaves were considered domesticated savages who would, if given the chance, revert to murder and mayhem. To many whites, particularly pro-slavery Southerners, this seemed the lesson of the violent and ultimately successful Haitian Revolution, which represented, as Davis puts it, “the unleashing of pure id.”

But the ironies of history are boundless. Although Haiti’s slaves did win their freedom, a prolonged civil war damaged the country’s economy. Seizing the opportunity,

planters elsewhere in the Caribbean and in the American South increased production, which meant they needed to acquire more slaves. In 1803, South Carolina reopened its slave trade, importing 40,000 Africans in the next four years. *Yet Great Britain, having lost as many as 50,000 soldiers and seamen in Haiti, responded differently, emancipating 800,000 colonial slaves in 1834 without spilling a drop of blood.*

From the NY Times Book Review of *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Emancipation* by David Brion Davis.

## 2014 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2014

### • October 8<sup>th</sup> •

Confederate POW Camp  
Cahaba Prison (Castle Morgan)  
*Peter Cozzens*

### • November 12<sup>th</sup> •

West Point Night  
Ben Butler’s Black Battalion  
*Captain Mark Ellers*

### • December 10<sup>th</sup> •

Thaddeus Lowe and the Civil War  
Balloon Corps  
*Kevin Knapp*

## President's Message

*Try to imagine the desperation of the summer of 1864. Grant's strategy has placed the two major Confederate armies completely on the defensive. They can't come out from behind their protective earthworks to fight anymore. And yet, Grant must bear the burden of the opportunities missed at Petersburg...the disappointment of ineffective leadership at the Crater...the frustration of a Northern press as they disparage him and his soldiers. But wait... Sherman and Sheridan will show the entire country how Grant's plan is working and give new hope to a beleaguered president in September!*

Welcome to the **64<sup>th</sup> Season** of The Civil War Round Table of New York. It is both my honor and pleasure to serve again as your president.

To say it plainly, this is what your officers, board members and myself have planned for you this year:

First: We will continue to "promote the social, educational, literary and other historically-related activities of the people and events associated with the American Civil War" as promised in our bylaws.

Second: We will present the **best Civil War historians, authors, and legends** we can find who will speak, excite, and stimulate the Club every second Wednesday from September to June.

Third: We will run the Round Table **responsibly and sensibly** to make sure we incur no debts or deficits and will raise dues and fees when required to meet our expenses, obligations and charitable goals.

Fourth: We will celebrate the best non-fiction Civil War Book for the 59th consecutive year with our very own creation, the prestigious **Fletcher Pratt Literary Award**.

Fifth: We will honor the individual or institution who has contributed the most to honor the memory of Abraham Lincoln with the presentation of the 53rd annual **Barondess/Lincoln Award**.

Sixth: We will plan our **58th Annual Battlefield Tour** after our members complete their visit to the Cavalry Fields of Gettysburg this month.

Seventh: We will retain our traditions of "**West Point Night**" in November and "**Lee/Jackson Night**" in January.

Eighth: We will always support **battlefield preservation** with every dollar and donation we make in our speakers' names.

Ninth: **We are New York City's Civil War Headquarters**, and we will keep you current, inform you on the events of 150 years ago, and ensure your experience is rewarding and the most fun it can be.

Finally—as a member—I urge you to make the same commitment that your officers and board members have: **Share your passion, invite your friends to meetings, bring your family**. This is your Club! Come and enjoy great speakers...stimulate your Civil War imagination...and, most importantly, don't miss celebrating the final year of the Sesquicentennial with us!

— *Martin Smith*

# THE DISPATCH



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

139-33 250th Street,  
Rosedale, N.Y. 11422  
Telephone CWRT/NY at (718) 341-9811

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>\$50</b>	<b>\$70</b>	
<b>Silver</b>	<b>\$60</b>	<b>\$85</b>	
<b>Gold</b>	<b>\$110</b>	<b>\$160</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**  
71-16 66th Street, Glendale, NY 11385

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

## August/September during the Civil War

### 1861

**August 1** – General R. E. Lee takes charge in Western Virginia and wishes it never happened. He succeeds General Loring who had succeeded the slain General Robert Selph Garnett (who is buried in Green-Wood Cemetery).

**September 11** – The rebel army fails at Cheat Mountain; Rosecrans stars but George B. McC gets all the credit and the new state of West Virginia is about to be born.

### 1862

**August 24** – The *CSS Alabama* is commissioned and woe befalls Union shipping.

**September 15-17** – Harpers Ferry falls to Jackson and the bloodiest day of the war occurs near a creek in Maryland.

### 1863

**August 21** – William Clarke Quantrill sacks, burns, and murders, in Lawrence, Ks.

**September 18-21** – The South's last great victory, at Chickamauga, sort of a Pyrrhic Victory for the Rebels as it costs both armies some 28% of their strength, something that the CSA cannot handle as well as the North.

### 1864

**August 5** – A famous quote in American history is created in Mobile Bay: "Damn the Torpedoes, full steam ahead."

**September 2** – Atlanta is fairly won and the South is dealt a staggering blow.

## NEW Recruits

**Darryl Brock** from Stratford, Ct., who is a PhD candidate at Fordham University.

**John Scotto** from Massapequa, a friend of Bill Finlayson.

**Vincent Lodato** from Commack, originally from Rosedale.

**Gerald Fisher**, a lawyer, who is interested in items monetary, fiscal and economic.

## Who Am I?

**Answer is on page 4.**

My foster brother was far more famous than me even though I was a Union general. Post- assassination I defended Samuel Arnold and Edman Spangler during the military trial of the Lincoln conspirators. A mid-Westerner, I moved to NYC in 1881 and am buried in Yonkers.

## The Mason Dixon Line

For those not familiar with this geographic point, it defines the borders of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

In 1763, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon were taxed with settling an 80-year dispute between the Calverts of Maryland and the Penns of Pennsylvania by establishing a permanent boundary between then two colonies. According to the Calvert's Royal Charter, what is now Philadelphia and Delaware were part of the Maryland colony – whereas the Penns' charters also included this land. As both colonies were giving land grants to settlers in the disputed area, it's not surprising that hostilities broke out regarding property rights and law enforcement. When Maryland and Pennsylvania militias entered into the bloody fray, George II had to intervene by ordering a ceasefire. This 1730's conflict is known as the Cresap Wars. Finally, in 1760, the crown ordered the Calverts to abide by a boundary agreement signed by both parties in 1732, to settle the land dispute permanently.

Mason and Dixon stopped work in 1767. They had completed marking the 83-mile Maryland/Delaware border, but had only marked 233 miles of the Maryland/Pennsylvania line. Their Iroquois guides refused to cross into the hostile lands of the Lenape. The remaining work would be finished 20 years later. This Mason/Dixon line has become what some call the cultural boundary between North and South.

From *The Surratt Courier* May 2014





## Answer

**Thomas Ewing, Jr., foster brother of W.T.Sherman**

Thanks again to Pennsylvania's Mike Snyder for this one.

## Broken Bodies

More than 40 years after losing his right arm in the Civil War, Henry S. Huidekoper, a Lieutenant colonel in the Union Army, had long adjusted, and no longer found himself trying to reach for things or write with his missing hand.

But somewhere in mind or memory, he wrote in a letter, "In my dreams, I always have the use of both my hands."

...Colonel Huidekoper, whose letter describes the dreams in which his missing hand is restored, was writing to Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, a surgeon who took care of the wounded in Philadelphia and developed an abiding interest in how his patients, especially amputees, fared in the years and decades after the war. ...

Mitchell was among the first to recognize the phantom-limb syndrome and to understand that it resulted from injured nerves. Something of a pioneer in epidemiology, he sent detailed surveys to veterans with many questions on pain and other consequences of amputation.

From a review of *Broken Bones, Suffering Spirits, an exhibit at the Mutter Museum in Philadelphia* (NY Times January 21, 2014)



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