

THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 60, No. 2

543rd Meeting

October 2010



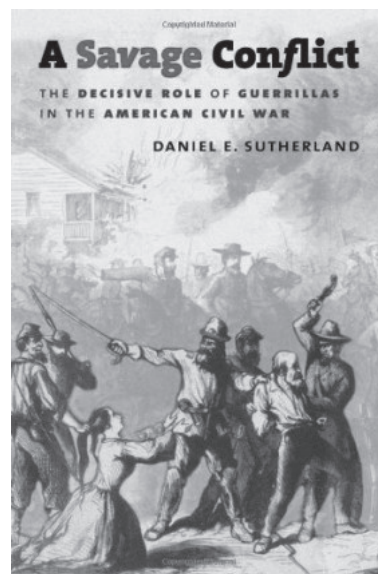
You must call 718-341-9811 by October 6th, if you plan to attend the October meeting.

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

- Speaker:
Dan Sutherland
Guerillas
- Cost:
Members: \$35
Non-Members: \$45
- Date:
Wednesday, October 13th
- Place:
The Three West Club,
3 West 51st Street,
Meeting on the 9th Floor
- Time:
Dinner at 6 pm,
Doors open 5:30 pm,
Cash Bar 5:30 – 7 pm

Dan Sutherland

Our October guest was educated at Wayne State University in Detroit where he received his B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. He has taught at the University of Alabama (1976), Wayne State University (1976-77), McNeese State University (1977-89) and is currently at the University of Arkansas (1989-). He has received over forty awards, grants, and honors, including appointments as the Douglas Southall



Freeman Professor of History, University of Richmond (2004), and a Visiting Fellow at Wolfson College, University of Cambridge (2005-06).

He has published thirteen books and over sixty articles, essays and book chapters. The most notable books include, *The Confederate Carpetbaggers*, *The Expansion of Everyday Life (1860-1876)*, *Seasons of War: The Ordeal of a Confederate Community*, *Guerillas*, *Unionists and Violence on the Confederate Home Front*, and *Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, The Dare Mark Campaign*.

He is currently working on a book titled: James McNeill Whistler: A Life for Art's Sake.

Dressing the Presidents

One of Brooks Brother's most illustrious presidential patrons was none other than Abraham Lincoln, whose stature required custom tailoring which made him a frequent visitor; one of his most famous purchases was a frock coat, worn by the president to his second inauguration, which was not only custom-made but custom embroidered on the lining with an American eagle, carrying in its beak a banner that reads, "One Country, One Destiny." Sadly, Lincoln was to wear the same frock coat on the evening of the fatal attack at Ford's Theater.

Brooks Brothers magazine Fall 2009

54th Annual Battlefield Tour

"For A Good Time, Jine The Cavalry"

This year's tour will focus on the battle of Cedar Mountain, and the two largest cavalry battles fought during the Civil War – Brandy Station and Trevillian Station. We will also tour Mosby's Confederacy. Our

tour guide will be cavalry expert Bud Hall. So saddle up with Stuart or Custer and ride to the sound of the guns on May 19th–22nd, 2011.

Call John Sheehan for details: 917-539-1417.

A \$100 deposit to reserve your place can be mailed to our HQ at 139-33 250th Street, Rosendale, N.Y., 11422.

2010 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2010

• November 10th •

West Point Night

Major Joseph Scott

Thaddeus Lowe and the Aeronauts

• December 8th •

Jeff Richman

Green-Wood Cemetery

• January 19th •

Steve Laird

Lee and Jackson at
Chancellorsville

President's Message

I was glad to see a good number of fellow members at our September meeting. Hopefully, the cooler weather of October will help keep our turn-out high. This will be a banner year, our 60th Anniversary. Pat Falci will be updating us on the status of our Anniversary Celebration, which is scheduled for the May meeting.

With the start of a new season, there are a few reminders that I want to mention. Your dues are due. Please remit them if you have not yet done so. I know the economy is off; but if you can, please consider renewing at a higher category. Also, the September Dispatch mentioned the dress code. The 3 West Club is a prestigious venue, so please let's dress accordingly.

Lastly, I want to remind you that we need volunteers. This Round Table did not last 60 years without the work of many people. Please, volunteer.

— Charles Mander

Book Review

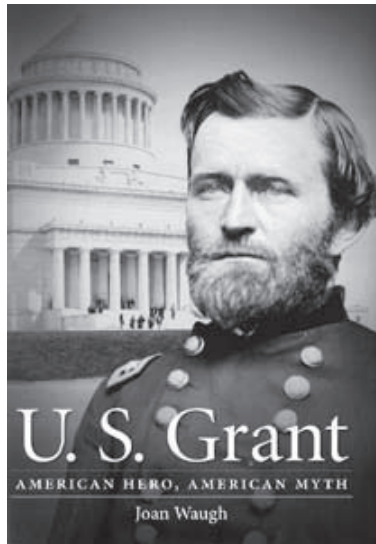
U.S. Grant: American Hero, American Myth

by Joan Waugh

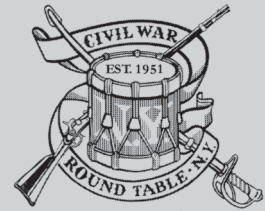
Joan Waugh, professor of history at UCLA has written two books in one. The first 164 pages comprise a good, concise biography of Grant from his birth in 1822 to the end of his presidency in 1877. This foundation is necessary for the remaining 144 pages, an examination of the adulation showered on Grant at the end of his life and after his death. It is difficult for today's public to believe that Grant was once included with Washington and Lincoln as one of our greatest presidents. On August 8, 1885, a million and a half people gathered in New York City to view Grant's funeral procession and burial ceremonies. On the day his monument (Grant's Tomb) was dedicated, April 27, 1897, "One of the most popular souvenirs proved to be cheap copies of an official medal struck for the occasion. One side of the medal showed the newly build tomb, while the other side depicted the familiar profiles of three presidents – Washington, Lincoln, and Grant. The motto below the profiles read: "Father, Savior, Defender." Most Americans of that day would have agreed with General Horace Porter, who "listed the five traits that in his opinion defined Grant: Truth, Courage, Modesty, Generosity and Loyalty." Compare this with intelligent people today who, with a superficial knowledge of American history, think of Grant as a drunken general and a corrupt president.

Professor Waugh shows how different constituencies reacted to Grant's death in 1885. The North celebrated his leadership of the Union armies. The South praised reconciliation, while expressing loyalty to the growing myth of the Lost Cause. Blacks, (who staged funeral marches in Memphis, Charleston, Atlanta, and

Continued on page 4



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October during the Civil War

1861

1 – The Port Royal, S.C. operation is given to the other Sherman (Thomas S.).

8 – General Robert Anderson (buried at West Point), the first hero of the Civil War (in the North) is replaced by the real Sherman (William T.).

1862

1 – From the *Richmond Whig* on President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: "It is a dash of the pen to destroy 400 thousand million of our property."

25 – Lincoln writes an unforgettable communiqué to his sloth-like general, who complained he couldn't move because his horses were fatigued: "Will you pardon me for asking what the horses of your army have done since the battle of Antietam that fatigue anything?"

1863

13 – In Ohio, the Copperhead candidate for governor, Clement Vallandigham, exiled in Canada, receives a surprisingly large vote. Apparently many people like poisonous snakes.

24 – Grant and Thomas reconnoiter at Brown's Ferry, near Lookout Mountain. The Confederate pickets across the Tennessee River, in a position to alter American history, hold their fire, assuming that the Union's cause is lost at starving Chattanooga.

1864

15 – Jo Shelby captures Glasgow, Mo., and then takes the high road to Edinburgh so as to try to catch the Yankees fleeing this bonny town.

19 – Phil Sheridan's ride back to Cedar Creek makes history (and poetry) and ends the bad old man's (Early) attack, winning a decisive battle and ending the threat in the Shenandoah Valley, where up is south and down is north.

The Village Attorney

Regardless of which side won, the battle [Antietam] had not ended the talk of intervention. Lee's retreat into Virginia had shocked the British into realizing that his invasion of the North had not only failed to deliver a widely anticipated victory, but it had also restored the Union's morale, so badly shaken at Second Bull Run. The Confederacy tried to minimize the impact of Antietam by boasting that McClellan had not destroyed Lee's forces, leaving them in a position to establish control over the vast region extending from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. Northerners had lost their senses, many British contemporaries seem to believe. Lewis [George Cornwall, Secretary for War] cynically remarked that the Union had come to realize what it meant to be governed by a "village attorney" appointed Prime Minister for 4 years certain, during a period of civil war.

Page 224, *Blue and Gray Diplomacy* by Howard Jones



Query

Who was Patrick Gilmore and what did he do?

Patrick Gilmore, an Irish immigrant, wrote revised lyrics to an old Irish tune, "Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye."

He wrote:

When Johnny comes marching home again,
Hurrah, Hurrah!
The men will cheer and the boys will shout
The ladies they will all turn out
And we'll all feel gay
When Johnny comes marching home

From the February 2010 newsletter of The CWRT of Eastern Pennsylvania

New Recruits

Maya Finch

Eugene Weitz

True or False

William Henry Seward was born in Florida

Answer on page 4

Continued from page 2

cities all across the South) emphasized Grant's strong anti-slavery views and "embraced the emancipation memory." Waugh doesn't mention his valiant unsuccessful attempts to enforce the weak civil rights laws of the day, which blacks must have appreciated, too. Josiah Bunting, author of an excellent biography of Grant in the American Presidents Series, believes that Grant did more for civil rights than any president between Abraham Lincoln and Lyndon Johnson.

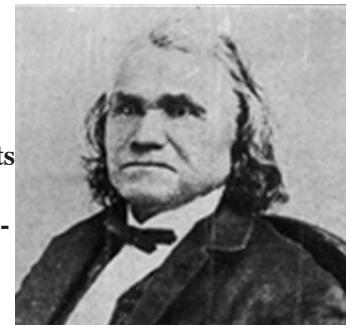
Waugh's excellent book leaves me eagerly awaiting Volume Two. I'd like to see her write a more detailed examination of Grant's fall from favor, and his reputation's current rebound. I hope she will write it soon.

By Michael Wolf



Pronunciation Guide

Our May guest, William L. Shea spoke to some descendants of Stand Watie, the Cherokee general who fought on the Confederate side. They said his name is pronounced Stand-Waytee, in one gulp. In case you don't know, his picture is on the Civil War stamps issued some 15 years ago.



Answer:

True. Florida, New York, right off Route 17.



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