THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 62, No. 8 569th Meeting April 2013



• Guest: Rick Hatcher III Fort Sumter 1829–1947

• Cost: Members: <u>\$40</u> Non-Members: <u>\$50</u>

• Date: Wednesday, April 10th

You must call 718-341-9811 by April 3rd, if you plan to attend the April meeting.

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

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

56TH ANNUAL BATTLEFIELD TOUR

October 11th, 12th + 13th 2013 Shenandoah at War – 1864

Sharpen your sabers as you ride up and down the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia alongside those colorful characters, Jubal Early, John Mosby and Grumble Jones as they battle Phil Sheridan, George Custer and David Hunter. Our tour guides will be Col. Keith Gibson of the Virginia Military Institute, and Dennis Frye, chief historian at Harper's Ferry. As a bonus, we will be at the Lee Chapel on the anniversary of the famous general's death.

So saddle up with a \$100 deposit made out to **CWRTNY Tour**, to reserve your seat on the bus. You can bring it to the meeting or mail it to our HQ at 139-33 250th Street, Rosedale, NY 11422.

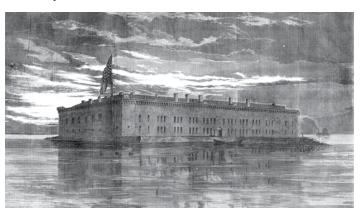
For details call 718-341-9811.

Rick Hatcher III Fort Sumter 1829–1947

Our guest's interest in the Civil War began during the 1961–1965 Centennial. Living next door to his grandparents in Richmond, Va., he heard stories of his Confederate ancestors and his interest in the war grew to embrace the broader study of American history. In 1983 he graduated with a BA in US history from Virginia Commonwealth University. Rick has worked for the National Park Service since 1970, starting his career at Richmond National



Battlefield as a volunteer and seasonal employee. In 1976 he became a permanent employee at Colonial Historic Park at Yorktown, Va., followed by assignments at Kings Mountain National Military Park, S.C., and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Mo. In 1992 Rick transferred to Fort Sumter National Monument to fill the historian's position. He also serves as the historian for Charles Pinckney National Historic Site and Fort Moultrie.



2013 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2013

• May 8th •

Fletcher Pratt Award

Tim Smith - Corinth 1862

• June 12th •
September Suspense:
Lincoln's Union in Peril
Dennis Frye

• September 11th •
The Poetry and Prose of the
Emancipation Proclamation
Harold Holzer

President's Message_

It was April of 1863, and two parallel, but two very different, military campaigns were unfolding in the east and in the west. Joseph Hooker, new commander of the Army of the Potomac, was a good organizer, and had improved the supply problems that had plagued the Federals since the disastrous defeat at Fredericksburg and the humiliating Mud March. He had reorganized the army, saw to it that they were well fed, and issued corps badges to the men, helping to instill a new sense of pride and identity. Along with all of this came a lot of Joseph Hooker bluster. "May God have mercy on General Lee, for I will have none." And as the roads dried out, his plan was to march up the Rappahannock, and to get around behind the Confederates, forcing them to "ingloriously fly, or come out from behind their defenses.... where destruction awaits....." The first shots were fired on the last day of the month, and all bets were that Hooker would finally be the man to best Robert E. Lee.

But along the Mississippi River, a different kind of general was preparing his army for a new kind of campaign. Ulysses S. Grant had been trying to take Vicksburg for many months now, but each attempt north of the city had ended in failure. He finally determined that the only way to get at the Confederate bastion was to march south of the city, and to cross to the east side of the river where he could tackle the Rebs on open ground. Quietly, he made his preparations. He sent off a brigade of cavalry under Benjamin Grierson to raid through eastern Mississippi, drawing away limited Confederate resources. He had Sherman create a diversion north of the city to keep the Southerners occupied. Then Grant marched his command south, and as April came to a close, he ferried the first of his army across to the Mississippi side of the river, to begin a campaign like no other - no lines of communication, no lines of supply, no going back until the enemy was defeated, and Vicksburg was taken.

Both campaigns showed brilliance in their conception. But in the end, it was the western general who would prove that quiet determination outshines bluster every time.

- Bill Finlayson

NEW SLATE - 2013-2014

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THE DISPATCH



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During business hours.

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April during the Civil War

1861

12 – Edmund Ruffin, Virginia fire-eater and agriculture expert, probably did not fire the first shot against Fort Sumter, as legend has it. Perhaps Henry S. Farley did.

24 – A beleaguered president says that "There is no North. The 7th Regiment is a myth."

1862

6 – Shiloh, bloody April, and the loss of one of the South's top generals. Once again, U.S. Grant is surprised.

7 – John Pope, R.E. Lee's future miscreant, captures Island #10. He admits that this operation was twice as difficult as capturing Island #5.

1863

16 – David D. Porter's web-foot boys steam past Vicksburg's batteries carrying supplies for Grant's men south of the city.

24 – Federal General Grenville Dodge (his eponymous city in Kansas will gain future fame for an actor from Tasmania) captures Tuscumbia, Alabama.

1864

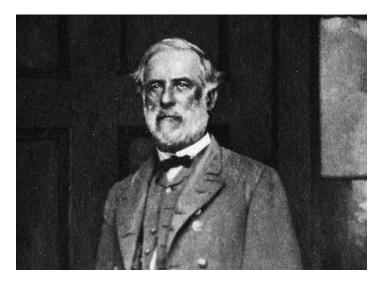
12 – N.B. Forrest's Critter Companies conduct a massacre at Fort Pillow on the Mississippi. Have you ever visited this spooky spot?

30 – Another president loses a child in the White House. Joe Davis, five years old, dies after a fall from his father's veranda in Richmond.

1865

1 – General R.E. Lee orders General George Pickett to hold Five Forks at all hazards. It never happened.

9 – Wilmer McLean, late of Manassas, lends his porch for a leading role in the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia.



A SONG SANG ON VCSA DAY

Patrick Gilmore left behind a fabulous musical legacy.

In addition to his lyrics to "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again," in N.Y.C. he established "Gilmore's Concert Garden," which became Madison Square Garden.

Late in his career, Gilmore helped Thomas Edison with some of the first musical recordings.

When Johnny comes marching home again

Hurrah! Hurrah!

We'll give him a hearty welcome then

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.

The old church bell will peal with joy

Hurrah! Hurrah!

To welcome home our darling boy

Hurrah! Hurrah!

The village lads and lassies say

With roses they will strew the way

And we'll all feel gay

When Johnny comes marching home.

Get ready for the Jubilee,

Hurrah! Hurrah!

We'll give the hero three times three,

Hurrah! Hurrah!

The laurel wreath is ready now

To place upon his loyal brow

And we'll all feel gay

When Johnny comes marching home.

From the CWRT of Eastern Pennsylvania February 2010

New Recruits

Tony Davenport who is interested in Gettysburg and personal histories.

Edward Flanagan, Jr. a librarian from Brooklyn who is interested in battles, persons and books.

CLARA BARTON'S MISSING SOLDIERS' OFFICE

In 1996, a carpenter for the federal government stumbled across the lost office of Clara Barton, the pioneering Civil War-era nurse and humanitarian, who pushed for the creation of the American Red Cross.

The dilapidated structure at 437 Seventh Street in Washington was scheduled for demolition, its upper floor uninhabited for nearly 100 years. Carpenter Richard Lyons was checking the interior of the old building when some paper caught his eye. What he found ultimately led to a determination that it was the apartment Barton lived in during and after the Civil War and used for her Missing Soldier's Office. Better known for bringing succor to men on the battlefield, Barton's efforts did not end when hostilities ceased. Between 1866 and 1868, Barton supervised a staff that received correspondence from families searching for lost soldiers. Lists of the missing were prepared and published for distribution to post offices nationwide. People who knew the whereabouts of the bodies of fallen soldiers would contact Barton's office, which would then notify the family. Occasionally a missing soldier was found alive. The office handled more than 63,000 letters and



provided information to the families of over 21,000 men. The trove of artifacts found included stacks of Civil War newspapers, personal items, and hundreds of yards of black bunting possibly used for President Abraham Lincoln's funeral. During the war, Barton used the site as personal living quarters and to store supplies for battlefield nursing before opening the soldiers operation.

Excerpted from the Surratt Courier November 2012



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