

THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 62, No. 6

567th Meeting

February 2013



- Guest:
**Barondess Lincoln
Award winner**
- Cost:
**Members: \$40
Non-Members: \$50**
- Date:
**Thursday,
February 28th**
- 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
February 21st, if you
plan to attend the
February meeting.*

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

**MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 28TH, 2013!**

Barondess Lincoln Award winner

Our annual Barondess Lincoln Award winner is Steven Spielberg's movie, *Lincoln*. It has earned extraordinary praise from the critics, and Daniel Day-Lewis's performance should prove to be worth yet another Academy Award. Tommy Lee Jones's efforts playing Thaddeus Stevens could also win an Oscar as best supporting actor.

Many people rank *Lincoln* as the very best movie ever made about our 16th president and the critics could barely find enough superlatives to express themselves: "A brilliant actor surpasses even himself and makes us see a celebrated figure in ways we hadn't anticipated." "Lincoln is a rough and noble democratic masterpiece. Go see this movie." "Lincoln boasts a performance for the ages by two-time Academy Award winner Daniel Day-Lewis."

What recent movie has ever gotten such praise? The CWRTNY takes great pride in its 2012 Barondess Lincoln award for *Lincoln*, which screen writer Tony Kushner will accept.



LINCOLN AT BALTIMORE

APRIL 18, 1864

"The shepherd drives the wolf from the sheep's throat, for which the sheep thanks the shepherd as a liberator, while the wolf denounces him for the same act as the destroyer of liberty, especially as the sheep was a black one. Plainly the sheep and the wolf are not agreed upon a definition of the word liberty; and precisely the same difference prevails today among us human creatures, even in the North, and all professing to love liberty. Hence we behold the processes by which thousands are daily passing from under the yoke of bondage, hailed by some as the advance of liberty, and bewailed by others as the destruction of all liberty. Recently, as it seems, the people of Maryland have been doing something to define liberty; and thanks to them, that in what they have done, the wolf's dictionary, has been repudiated."

From *Lincoln At War* edited by Harold Holzer

AN UNEXPECTED AWARD

The Congress of Local Newspapers, located in River City, Iowa, has notified us that the *Dispatch* is the recipient of their yearly award for the most attractive and interesting local newsletter of 2012. Congress President Alton Blaney contacted the CWRTNY to advise us of this honor. The prize is in the form of a plaque replicating the Civil War *Herald*.

2013 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2013

• March 13th •

Brooklyn and the Civil War
Bud Livingston

• April 10th •

Fort Sumter
Rick Hatcher

• May 8th •

Fletcher Pratt Award
Tim Smith - Corinth 1862

President's Message

Just when you think that you know Abraham Lincoln, along comes something new..... a new book, a new document, a new fact, and you start the process of getting to know him all over again. This has been going on for almost 150 years now, and it is in our DNA. We've all grown up with the man and the myth, the five dollar bill and the penny, the birthday, and the tunnel, and the endless advertising and marketing campaigns. The catalog of visual images is endless - photographs, prints, paintings, and sculpture. And then there is the world of cinema. Almost from the beginning of moving pictures, Abraham Lincoln was there. From *The Birth of a Nation* in 1915 to this year's *Abraham Lincoln Vampire Killer*, each generation in the last 100 years has a favorite Lincoln film, and so many of our acting greats have tried their hand at the great emancipator.

In 1930, Walter Huston played the title role in *Abraham Lincoln*, the first talking picture directed by D.W. Griffith. Frank McGlynn Sr. made an entire career out of playing Old Abe beginning in the silent era, and by the 1930's, he was instantly recognizable as the martyred president in films such as director John Ford's *The Prisoner of Shark Island*, and Shirley Temple's *The Littlest Rebel*. Henry Fonda would give it a try in *Young Mr. Lincoln* in 1939, also directed by John Ford. Raymond Massey first played Lincoln on the stage, and then reprised the role in the 1940 *Abe Lincoln in Illinois*, in which he was nominated for an Academy Award. John Carradine, Richard Boone, Hal Holbrook, Gregory Peck, and Sam Waterston all have found something new and different in their own interpretations throughout the years, be it on the small screen or up on the silver screen. And now Steven Spielberg and Tony Kushner have presented Daniel Day-Lewis in a role of a lifetime, and we begin our fascination with Lincoln all over again. It's as if Long Abe is a prism, and each generation sees itself anew through *his* life and times.

Just when you think that you know Abraham Lincoln.....

— Bill Finlayson

A TYPICAL QUOTE FROM AMBROSE BIERCE

A quote from Ambrose Bierce was used on Australian TV:

War is God's way of teaching Americans geography.

Ambrose Bierce had a reputation of a quick wit and a searing critic and was not only a very well known writer, journalist and satirist, but had also served in the Civil War as a member of the 8th Indiana Infantry. Amongst the other 19th century authors who served in the Civil War: Walt Whitman, Mark Twain, and Lew Wallace.

From the *CWRT of Australia's Minie News*

Editor's note: Mark Twain who served briefly under his real name, Samuel Clemens, walked away from his Missouri militia outfit and went West to be with his brother in Nevada.

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.

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February during the Civil War

1862

6 – Grant’s men are still marching toward Ft. Henry when Flag Officer Foote’s gunboats force the rebels to surrender.

16 – Grant issues his famous Unconditional Surrender order to his old friend, Simon Bolivar Buckner (the latter’s great-grandson will always be remembered for this costly error in the 1986 World Series).

1863

12 – *The Queen of the West* sees action on the Red River. In St. Louis shipyards, work is being finalized on the Queens of the East, North and South. When they are completed, the North will have four queens.

28 – Commodore John Worden, back in action after his wounding on the *Monitor*, destroys the CSS *Nashville* with his new vessel, the *Montauk*.

1864

1 – Hostilities break out along Batchelder’s Creek in N.C. There are also skirmishes at Spinster’s Run just to the north.

17 – The Confederate Congress, emulating its Northern counterpart, suspends the writ of habeas corpus to be applied only to arrests, made under orders by the president or the secretary of state. What does the Confederate Supreme Court have to say about this violation of states’ rights?

Answer is on page 4

1865

3 – President Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward meet Alexander Stephens, John Campbell and Robert Hunter, on board the *River Queen* to discuss peace plans. This gives the North five queens.

22 – Federal troops march into Wilmington, N.C., the last Confederate port available to receive imports of ammunition, etc.

GUERRILLAS

The guerrilla problem worsened in 1864. Irregulars grew more active across the Western theater, seemingly unafraid of the small Union garrisons left behind as Sherman maximized troop strength on active fronts. The guerillas struck at defenseless targets, firing into passing trains, cutting telegraph wires, and burning small undefended bridges and culverts. They lay stones and rails on tracks to disrupt locomotives and burned piles of wood used to fuel the engines. Marauders raided towns to secure supplies, singling out loyalists for ill treatment. They often took hostages and demanded ransom, only to brutally murder the victims after receiving payment. Federal garrisons sent out patrols that sometimes encountered the guerrillas, killing a few and scattering the rest. One Union patrol of only 11 men was ambushed by 110 guerillas near Fort Donelson and overwhelmed. The marauders mercilessly beat their captives, then pumped up to four bullets into each one. Guerillas were more lethal in Kentucky than anywhere else. Federal officials reported that nearly all the towns and counties on the south bank of the Ohio were disloyal, as well as many on the north bank. A great deal of trade in contraband goods was the result. The counties along the Mississippi River were equally disloyal. An officer in Columbus clamped down on the shipments of goods of all kinds to inland towns because they were wide open to guerillas who ransacked stores.

From *The Civil War in the West* by Earl J. Hess.



LAST WITNESS OF MURDER OF LINCOLN DEAD

Death today had veiled the eyes that looked upon one of the most tragic scenes of American history, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Joseph Hazelton, 83, actor and lecturer, said to have been the last surviving witness of the martyred president's shooting at the hands of John Wilkes Booth, died yesterday at St. Vincent's hospital after a long illness. Mr. Hazelton was a program boy at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., his native city, and was looking directly at Lincoln seated in his box, when the shot was fired at the president. As speaker on patriotic occasions and before clubs and other organizations, Mr. Hazelton told his dramatic story of the tragedy, on April 14, 1865, when the actor John Wilkes Booth bestowed a coin upon him and patted his head as he stood in front of the theater. The boy wondered later if Booth had planned the crime at that time. That night young Hazelton handed Lincoln a program and Lincoln said "good evening Joseph." He was one of the last persons to be addressed by the president.

October 10, 1934 from an unidentified New York paper

Answer:

They didn't have a Supreme Court.



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