

# THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 63, No. 7

578th Meeting

March 2014



- Guest:  
**Jake Boritt**  
The Gettysburg Story
- Cost:  
**Members: \$40**  
**Non-Members: \$50**
- Date:  
**Wednesday,**  
**March 12<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 March 5<sup>th</sup>, if you plan to attend the March meeting.*

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

## Jake Boritt The Gettysburg Story

Our March guest is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and a television and movie producer whose 2007 film “Budapest to Gettysburg” explored the story of his father, Professor Gabor Boritt, a world-renowned Lincoln and Civil War scholar, who returned to Hungary to find his roots in the tyranny of both Hitler and Stalin. “Budapest to Gettysburg” was selected for the 2007 independent film week in New York and screened at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, as part of the Boston Jewish Film Festival.

His latest project is “The Gettysburg Story,” a documentary shown on Public Television in 2013. In 2010 he wrote and produced “The Gettysburg Story Auto Tour,” which is now the best selling audio tour at the Gettysburg battlefield.

Boritt was raised on a Civil War farm in Gettysburg that served as a stop on the Underground Railroad and a Confederate hospital during the battle.

## Bite the Bullet

The Society of Civil War Surgeons Living History program held at Gettysburg National Military Park helped set the record straight about one of the most persistent myths about surgery during the Civil War: that many soldiers had to undergo field treatment with nothing more than a lead bullet between their teeth to help them bear the pain.

George Gill of Newark, Ohio, who portrays a surgeon for the 1st Tennessee, was a “captured Confederate surgeon” for the August program on the grounds of the Pennsylvania State Monument. When asked what visitors most common question was that weekend, he replied without hesitation, the “bite the bullet or the strap.”

Gill said, “That’s Hollywood.” During the Civil War doctors had ether which was invented in 1842, and chloroform, perfected in 1847.

“Eighty to 85 percent of the wounded soldiers were put out by those anesthetics,” said Gill, who has been a member of the Society of Civil War Surgeons, which sponsored the living history program, for almost 20 years.

He added that “late in the war, the Confederates had trouble getting hold of anesthesia, due mostly to the damage to their railroads, but the rest of the time it was usually available.”

From a *Civil War News* article by Julio C. Zangroniz  
October 2013

[Editor’s note: A former navy surgeon named Edward Squibb manufactured ether in his factory on Doughty Street, in Brooklyn Heights, during the war.

## 2014 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2014

• April 9<sup>th</sup> •

Bell I. Wiley Award  
James McPherson

• May 14<sup>th</sup> •

Fletcher Pratt Award  
Allen C. Guelzo

• June 11<sup>th</sup> •

The Cavalry at Gettysburg  
Jim Hessler

## President's Message

*With chill of winter still holding on, the Union Army, comprised of more than 662,000 men, wait for their commander, Ulysses S. Grant, to take the reins and lead them to final victory. Facing the newly-promoted Lieutenant General will be the battle-hardened veterans of the Confederate Army. Will this Spring be any different from the sorrowful experience of the past three years? Has anything new been learned to bring this awful war to a swift conclusion? And the question in everybody's mind is what will the hero of Belmont, Fort Henry and Fort Donaldson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Chattanooga do—now that Grant takes command?*

I hope you all enjoyed James Oakes and his presentation for winning the 52nd annual Baroness/Lincoln Award. We are so lucky to be in the greatest city of the world—with great speakers, authors and historians—like Professor Oakes—who either live here or want to come visit.

The Civil War Round Table of New York is a hub for lively discussions, enthusiastic conversations, and deeply felt insights and discoveries. That's why our presenters want to speak to us because they are challenged, enlivened, and stretched to defend their words and ideas from appreciative readers and critical thinkers like us.

If you haven't yet read "Freedom National," the Baroness/Lincoln Award-winning book for 2013, I urge to do so. In fact, I would encourage you to read all the books of our past winners for the last 50 years. What an education that would be!

Think about it... Who can boast of such a record? Who can be prouder than we are of all those who came before us to make our little club "the place to be" on the second Wednesday of every month, from September to June, to break bread, share ideas, listen to inspiring speakers, ask questions, and just have fun? Imagine if school had been like this!

So "Who's Coming To Dinner" this month? Let's try something completely different! This March we add to your intellectual and visual stimulation by offering you the chance to see Gettysburg in a way that it was never presented before. Filmmaker, producer, and writer, Jake Boritt, will take you on a cinematic journey here at The 3 West Club with his award-winning documentary, "THE GETTYSBURG STORY."

Please join us on Wednesday, March 12, for a breathtaking ride through (or should I say "over") the hallowed grounds of Gettysburg.

See you soon!

— Martin Smith

## Pat Falci at Gettysburg

The Gettysburg Times of July 6th, 2013, had a front page spread captioned RETURN TO GETTYSBURG – Actor and historian Patrick Falci, from New York, visited the 150th anniversary Gettysburg re-enactment and talked to the crowd about his time on the set of the movie "Gettysburg." He portrayed A.P. Hill in the movie.



## Abolition in the Border States

An Irishman walks into a drugstore in Maine, where liquor can be sold only for medicinal purposes, and orders a shot of whiskey. The druggist sees that the man is clearly healthy and will sell him only soda. Well, asks the Irishman, can't you "slip" a little of the stuff into my soda, "unbeknownst to yourself?" That's what I'm doing, Lincoln told Wendell Phillips in early 1862. I have "put a good deal of anti-slavery" into my policies, "unbeknownst" to most people. A short while later Lincoln told the same joke to another abolitionist, Moncure Conway. Both Phillips and Conway had been critical of what they believed was Lincoln's slow pace toward emancipation, and on both occasions Lincoln's response was the same. "I'm not as slow as you think. You're just not noticing."

From *Freedom National* by James Oakes.

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## March during the Civil War

### 1862

2 – Leonidas Polk, who managed to lose Kentucky for the Confederates, pulls out of Columbus, his Gibraltar on the Mississippi, and sends his cannons down river.

23 – Stonewall Jackson runs into difficulties at Kernstown when he finds his opponent, James Shields, with twice his number of troops. Shields and President Lincoln almost fought a duel years before, in Illinois.

### 1863

3 – The North's first conscription act is passed. Worthies like Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt Sr., and Thomas Jefferson Whitman (Walt's brother) buy their way out or provide a substitute.

9 – James Louis Petigru dies in Charleston, at 74. He is the rarest of rara avis, an outspoken South Carolina Unionist.

### 1864

1-2 – Ulrich Dahlgren either has or does not have incriminating papers on his body (he is killed in a raid on Richmond) indicating a desire to kill off the Confederate hierarchy.

12 – Congratulations are in order as F.H. (Fighting Henry) Halleck resigns his post as general-in-chief.

### 1865

1 – It is hard to believe, but New Jersey rejects the 13th amendment ending slavery. Is this neighboring Delaware's influence?

4 – Vice President Andrew Johnson pulls a Clint Eastwood and offers an incoherent and rambling inaugural address, embarrassing the president's 2nd administration.

## NEW Recruits

**Kevin Mahoney** from Staten Island who heard of us through the *Civil War Times*

**David Schustack** from New Rochelle, a friend of Alan Florin

**John H. O'Connell, Jr.** who has rejoined us.

## NEW | NEW | NEW | NEW

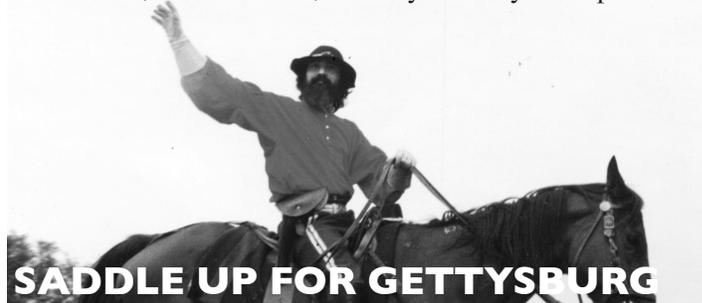
We are emailing the Dispatch. If you want it sent via email, please let the editor know:  
EABudlivingston@gmail.com.

## A Union Quartermaster

Captain Simon Perkins, Jr. (1839-1911) was an honest, hard-working quartermaster, and as efficient as working conditions and Army red tape would allow. He was also overworked and undervalued as the chronic shortage of competent, energetic quartermasters throughout the war attest. Although only twenty-three years old at the time of his entering the service, Perkins already had ten years of experience working in family businesses. His new boss, Montgomery Meigs, was in full agreement with Perkins that the Quartermaster Bureau was the most important of the War Department's seven staff departments, for shortcomings, in that bureau could "make the best planned campaign impracticable."

Quartermasters had to account for lost, stolen, and destroyed property, both during and after the war. Perkins had been a quartermaster for less than two weeks when he was required to account for a large load of coal that had been lost on the Cumberland River. Such problems cropped up throughout his wartime service, yet his biggest shock in this regard occurred after the war. In 1869, as a result of a Treasury Department audit of his wartime accounts Perkins received a bill for items unaccounted for. The amount that Treasury claimed he owed was \$297,926.18, truly jaw-dropping. Luckily he was able to resolve part of the amount owed with a notarized statement of his recollection of the final disposition of certain materials, but erasing the rest of the amount due required calling in a few political favors. As some of the references he produced whilst applying for his army job included the following names: Ohio Governor David Tod (his uncle), Edwin M. Stanton, and Salmon P. Chase, he was able to straighten things out.

Excerpted from *The Supply For Tomorrow* by Lenette S. Taylor, reviewed published by *The Minie News* of the CWRT of Australia, October 2013, courtesy of Barry Crompton.



## 57TH ANNUAL BATTLEFIELD TRIP

September 12th, 13th + 14th, 2014

It's boots and saddles as this will be an all-cavalry tour on the battlefield of Gettysburg and beyond. See where J.E.B. Stuart, G.A. Custer, John Buford and Wade Hampton clashed saber to saber. On one day, you will become real horse soldiers as you ride on horseback (or if you prefer, a horse-drawn carriage) over the battlefield. We will ride to the sound of the guns with our tour guide Jim Hessler (author of *Sickles at Gettysburg*, and the upcoming *Custer at Gettysburg*).

So if you want to have a good time, jine the cavalry with a \$100 deposit to reserve your mount as we ride into history. Send your check to CWRTNY Tour 139-33 250th Street, Rosedale, NY 11422

## Open Wide Please

Looking at literature published during the Civil War, it is apparent that dentistry was very important. In the Union Army, of 255,000 recruits examined, 5,230 were excused because of poor teeth or oral structures.

In A Manual of Instructions for Enlisting and Discharging Soldiers, written in 1864 by Dr. Robert Bartholow, Assistant Surgeon in charge of McDougal General Hospital, is found: "A carious condition of the teeth, and loss of the incisors and canines, are causes of rejection, not only because the tearing of the cartridge is thereby prevented and the proper mastication of the food is interfered with, but because these are evidences of a depraved state of the general system. The cartridge is usually torn with the incisors and canines, but this is a point of less importance than the evidence of impaired general health, for a man anxious to load his piece will find means to do it, if he have no teeth, though he may not accomplish it with rhythmic order and precision: but nature resents so important an interference with digestion as the failure to properly masticate food. If a man have lost the incisors only, it will not constitute a ground of exemption or rejection, but if the loss was occasioned by caries and the remaining teeth begin to decay, he will probably prove useless if enrolled or enlisted." Judging by this last statement a use for a man who had lost his opposing incisors could be found in the artillery.

In the Union Army there was no organized dental corps. Surgeons did only extractions and lancing of gum boils. Most of the extractions performed by the surgeons left much to be desired. The crown of the tooth was often broken off and the

roots left to cause later problems. According to Dr. Calvin Cutter, "When it is necessary to remove a tooth, apply to some skillful operator. It requires as much skill and knowledge to extract teeth well, as it does to amputate a limb..."

From the newsletter of the Eastern Pennsylvania CWRT written by Allen R. Crawford, Jr. D.M.D.

## Dressing the Presidents

One of Brook's Brothers most illustrious presidential patrons was none other than Abraham Lincoln himself. Lincoln's 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.

Other Brooks Brothers dressing the Chief Executive continued down through subsequent generations. Ulysses S. Grant, Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt all wore Brooks Brothers to their inaugurations.

From a Brooks Brothers brochure circa June 2013



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