

# THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 63, No. 9

580th Meeting

May 2014



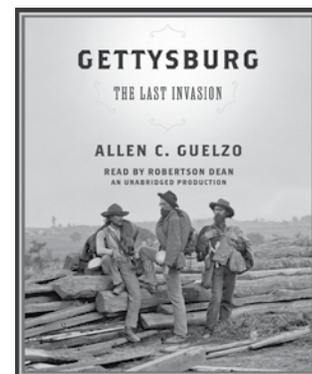
**You must call 718-341-9811 by May 7<sup>th</sup>, if you plan to attend the May meeting.**

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

- Guest:  
**Allen C. Guelzo**  
Fletcher Pratt Award
- Cost:  
**Members: \$40**  
**Non-Members: \$50**
- Date:  
**Wednesday,**  
**May 14<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**

## Fletcher Pratt Award Winner Allen C. Guelzo

Our May guest is the winner of the prestigious Fletcher Pratt Award for his epic *Gettysburg: The Last Invasion*. He has a BS in Biblical Studies from Philadelphia Biblical University and a MA and PhD in history from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a professor of history at Eastern University (St. Davids, Pa.) and from 1998 to 2004 he served as Dean of the Templeton Honors College there. He joined the history department at Gettysburg College in 2004. Some of his long list of books include: *Lincoln and Douglas: The Debates That Defined America*, *Abraham Lincoln as a Man of Ideas*, and *Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America*.



## NEW SLATE – 2014-2015

Here's the new slate of officers:

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## Hood's Texas Brigade

Of the many infantry brigades in Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, John Bell Hood's Texas Brigade earned the reputation as perhaps the premier unit. From 1862 until Lee's surrender at Appomattox, the brigade fought in most of the major campaigns in the Eastern Theater and several more in the Western including The Seven Days, Second Manassas (Second Bull Run), Sharpsburg (Antietam), Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Knoxville, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor, the siege of Petersburg, and Appomattox. Distinguished for its fierce fighting ability, the brigade suffered some of the war's highest casualties.

From *Hood's Texas Brigade in the Civil War* by Edward B. Williams

## 2014 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2014

• June 11<sup>th</sup> •

The Cavalry at Gettysburg  
Jim Hessler

• September 10<sup>th</sup> •

Grant: A Victor not a Butcher  
Edward H. Bonekemper

• October 8<sup>th</sup> •

Cahaba Prison (Castle Morgan)  
Peter Cozzens

## President's Message

*Oh Bitter, Bloody, Brutal May of 1864! The mighty Army of the Potomac—over one hundred thousand strong—is on the move. Do the soldiers know what their newest leader has planned for them? Do they have any idea how he will use them to “hammer” Lee while the rest of the Union Army attacks everywhere across the country at the same time? As they cross the Rapidan, do they understand that—this time—there is no turning back? And those who survive, how will they react in the future upon hearing the places where they will have fought—The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg—after 45 days of relentless, unprecedented battle on the Bloody Roads South?*

First, let's thank our Bell I. Wiley Award Committee of Judy Hallock and Bill Finlayson for bringing Civil War legend, James McPherson, to our meeting this year. Of all the awards we have bestowed over the past 58 years, this one was especially appealing. What better time to acknowledge the lifelong contribution of a distinguished author, dynamic speaker, and erudite thinker, than Jim McPherson?

But isn't that precisely the mission of The Civil War Round Table of New York? For the last 63 years we have striven to bring the very best Civil War historians, authors and legends to our membership, and we will continue to do so.

**With all that said, how can we “improve upon” the great James McPherson? Well, you'll have to forgive us for trying but that's exactly what we're going to do this month!**

Jim McPherson is a Pulitzer Prize winner. He is also a Lincoln Prize winner. So, you might ask, how can we “top” that? Here's how: We are going to award our most prestigious award—The Fletcher Pratt Literary Award For Best Non-Fiction Civil War History Book—to none other than Professor Allen Guelzo this May.

So what are Dr. Guelzo's credentials? Well, he hasn't won a Pulitzer (yet), but he is the only “three-time” winner of the Lincoln Prize and, more importantly, he is considered by many living historians, including a significant group of Licensed Gettysburg Battlefield Tour Guides, to be “The best speaker they ever heard” on the Civil War.

I urge you to make plans right now to reserve your place for our May 14 meeting and the awarding of the 58th Annual Fletcher Pratt Award to Professor Allen Guelzo from Gettysburg College! Be sure to call today. See you there!

— Martin Smith

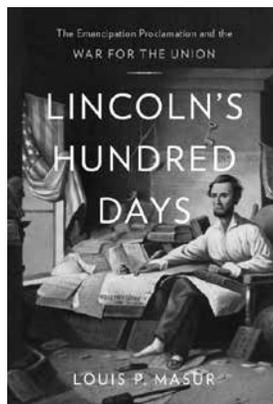
## Book Review

### Lincoln's Hundred Days by Louis Masur

Louis Masur's book is not about the early days of the administration. Some might think so since we had a plethora of books recently to mark the 80th anniversary of FDR and the New Deal and much has been made over it. Nor does it follow along the lines of some books covering Barak Obama's initial days in office, published in time to coincide with the elections. We have had several studies of the early days of the Lincoln administration such as Douglas Egerton's *Clash of Meteors* and Adam Goodheart's *The Civil War Awakening*, and these works do well if that is your point of interest.

This is about the 100 days from Lincoln's first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation to its introduction. The cover picture tells the story - a bedraggled president surrounded by books and rejected drafts working on the document. Masur covers all the matters that Lincoln had to factor into account - the consideration that the border states still were shaken in their resolve, the military situation which was still a problem, the foreign policy implications, the agitators from the radical factions of the Union, and his own personal prejudices. It deals also with the constitutionality problem - even amongst his supporters there were doubts there.

*Continued on page 4*



## THE DISPATCH



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During business hours.

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## May during the Civil War

### 1861

3 – Washington forms the Department of the Ohio which consists of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Its leader will be none other than G.B. McClellan.

24 – Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, of the 11th New York (First Fire Zouaves), gets involved with a Confederate flag-displaying Rebel sympathizer in Alexandria, Va. and they both lose their lives.

### 1862

3/4 – Fighting George McClellan and his enormous forces enter Yorkville without so much as firing his heavy siege guns. The overwhelming (not) CSA army has skeedaddled.

31 – Joe Johnston does what he is best at: getting wounded. This injury changes the war as his replacement's middle name is Audacious.

### 1863

1 – The famous cracker-barrel conference takes place in the Wilderness and Lee once again splits up his army in the face of a larger foe.

19 – Grant invests the city of Vicksburg expecting to starve it out. It will take our most famous holiday for the Rebels to surrender a month and a half later.

### 1864

5 – Wilderness II opens to immense blood shedding.

11 – Phil Sheridan wins his argument with George Meade (with Grant's help) and attacks the CSA cavalry at Yellow Tavern, making it Jeb Stuart's last fight.



## NEW Recruits

**Margaret Echanique** from Staten Island.

**Declan McNamara**, who is Lt. Col. David Siry's cousin.

## SADDLE UP FOR GETTYSBURG

### 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

## The Battle of Richmond, Ky. (not Va.)

For nearly 150 years, the battle of Richmond, Ky., began with a prepositional phrase:

“By the way.”

Examples:

“By the way, did you know there was a Civil War battle here?”

“By the way, did you know the Confederates whipped the Yankees here?”

“By the way, the Battle of Richmond, Ky. was the second largest Civil War battle in Kentucky.”

The battle of Richmond was barely a footnote in not only Kentucky's history, but also in the overall Civil War timeline. The battle, fought on Aug. 29 & 30, 1862, saw Confederate Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith and his 7,000 somewhat experienced but poorly-supplied band of soldiers thrash a newly-raised, similarly sized Federal army under the command of Maj. Gen. William (Bull) Nelson.

When the day-long, three-stage fight in 90-plus degree heat was over, Nelson's army ceased to exist. No, they didn't escape; they didn't exist.

And the Confederates would go on to capture Lexington and the Commonwealth's capital of Frankfort. But hopes for winning Kentucky for the Confederate cause would be dashed at the Battle of Perryville six weeks later, and the boys in butternut would retreat back to Tennessee.

You can learn all about this at The Battle of Richmond Visitor's Center which opened in October 2008.

*From Civil War News September 2013 by Phillip Seyfrit*

Masur integrates all of these into a smooth and well-balanced narration. Perhaps, it is true, that the making of policy is never pleasant – particularly a document of such historical and moral meaning. But he does it well and adds to a dimension all too often ignored in the assessment of Lincoln - his political skills and insights. The Emancipation Proclamation could have been a colossal failure but it wasn't – and it shows that Lincoln, despite his somewhat limited and provincial origins, possessed remarkable intellectual, political and analytical skills. Few presidents have come into office with less expectations, and most of them sink to the level that people anticipated, but he did not.

This is a short (300 pages plus footnotes and bibliography) book, but comprehensive. It is recommended not just for those interested in Civil War history but for those interested in the evolution of public policy. Masur has done an outstanding job.

By **Tom Ryley**

*Apologies are warranted. This review got lost for a long time and some of the comments are a bit dated.*

### **Some More Dixie**

**Time has passed and the legend's told  
Of the Rebel folk who fought so bold  
Look away, look away, look away, oh Dixie land  
Their cause was just – to protect their land  
To fight off tyranny and make a stand  
Look away, look away, look away, oh Dixie Land**

## **Jackson at Guinea Station**

[After his amputation] Jackson slept well through the night and awoke early on Monday morning, May 3, 1863, ready for his long journey – 27 miles – to Guinea Station. The plans were for him to stay at the comfortable home of Thomas Coleman Chandler, a “Christian gentleman” by Jackson’s description, who owned and operated a 700-acre plantation called Fairfield that was located near the railroad station. Jackson had met the Chandler family the previous December when he and the Second Corps had camped on the grounds of the estate prior to the battle of Fredericksburg. During that time, the Chandlers offered Jackson the use of their large house as his headquarters, but the general politely refused, saying, “he never wished to fare better than his men.” He remained instead in a tent within the sight of the house and even declined to accept the special meals Mrs. Chandler repeatedly sent for his enjoyment...

Along the way to Fairfield, Jackson discussed the battle of Chancellorsville and how his plans had been to take a position between the Federals and the river by cutting them off from the U.S. Ford and obliging them to attack him. “My men sometimes fail to drive the enemy from a position,” he offered, “but they always fail to drive us away.” He thought Hooker had devised an excellent strategy to defeat the Confederates, but made a fatal mistake in sending away his cavalry. “It was that which enabled me to turn him, without his being aware of it, and take him by his rear.”

From *Calamity at Chancellorsville* by Mathew W. Lively



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