


# THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 61, No. 3

554th Meeting

November 2011



- Guest:  
**Colonel Kevin Farrell**  
Meade at Gettysburg
- Cost:  
**Members: \$40**  
**Non-Members: \$50**
- Date:  
**Wednesday,**  
**November 9<sup>th</sup>**
- Place:  
**The Three West Club,**  
**3 West 51st Street,**
- Time:  
**Dinner at 6 pm,**  
**Doors open 5:30 pm,**  
**Cash Bar 5:30 – 7 pm**

*You must call 718-341-9811 by November 2<sup>nd</sup>, if you plan to attend the November meeting. We need to know how many people to order food for.*

## Colonel Kevin Farrell

### Meade at Gettysburg

Colonel Kevin W. Farrell PhD leads the Military History Division in the Department of History and oversees the Military History Program for the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

A 1986 graduate of West Point, Colonel Farrell possesses several advanced degrees from Columbia University, all in the field of modern European history. His major published works focus on the German army of the 2nd World War and ongoing military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.



## STRANGENESS AT WAUHATCHIE

Grant perpetuates the “mule charge” myth. Some Federal mules were apparently abandoned by their frightened “skinnners” and, terrified by the sounds of battle, charged blindly into Law’s lines. The Confederates, taking this for a cavalry charge (per Grant’s account in *Battle & Leaders*) “stampeded in turn.”

Law’s command was driven back by Tyndale and Orland Smith before the “mule charge” took place. There is a picturesque story of a recommendation that the mules be brevetted as horses.

From *The Civil War Dictionary*.

And what has this to do with George Washington? See page 4 for the answer.

## A PAINFUL LOSS

He (Bartholdi) visited the Chicago Historical Society and viewed an original signed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln had donated this signed copy for the auction held by the Sanitary Commission during one of its fund raising fairs in Chicago, but in October 1871, only two months after Bartholdi’s visit, the document was lost in the Great Chicago Fire.

From *Enlightening the World: The Creation of the Statue of Liberty* by Yasmin Sabina Khan

## 2011 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2012

• **December 14<sup>th</sup>** •  
Craig Symonds  
*Lincoln’s Admirals*

• **January 11<sup>th</sup>** •  
Jeffrey Wert  
*Lee’s Glorious Army*

• **February 8<sup>th</sup>** •  
*Barondess Lincoln Award*

## President's Message

November is a curious month. The weather is still nice enough for outdoor activities, but we all know what is coming, and we start to prepare for winter. Civil War generals were the same way. Most felt that active campaigning was finished for the year, and their attentions turned to matters of supply and winter camps. And so it was 150 years ago. General McClellan continued to train his growing army, and to build extensive fortifications completely encircling Washington City. The Confederate army, out on the plains of Manassas, worked on their defenses, too, and all was quiet along the Potomac. Soldiers' thoughts were of home and family, and those who celebrated Thanksgiving, not yet a national holiday, prepared as best they could for a "feast" of hardtack and whatever else could be purchased or foraged. They had seen so much in this first year of the war, but could have no idea of what was to come. So many of those boys would not live to see another November. And their sacrifice is still not forgotten 150 years later. It reminds us all just how much we have to be thankful for as both Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving approach us once again, in this curious month of November.

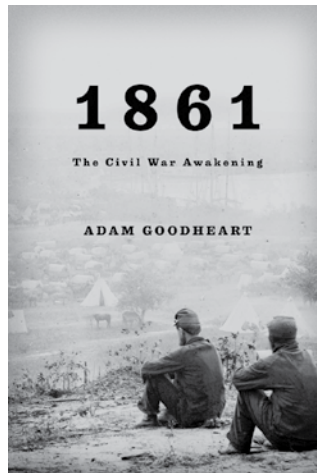
— *Bill Finlayson*

## Book Review

### 1861: The Civil War Awakening

by *Adam Goodheart*

Amid the spate of sesquicentennial books, symposia tours (and a Hollywood movie, *The Conspirators*, which you should definitely see) this book stands out. It is beautifully written, takes a fresh approach to describing the causes of the Civil War and its earliest days, and provides information about the obscure and the famous from Charles Starr Kong of California to Abraham Lincoln. The president's May 1861 letters to the "regent captains" of San Marino, the "longest-lived constitutional republic in the world" presaged the Gettysburg Address, as did Lincoln's July 4 message to the special session of the Congress elected eight months earlier. As Goodheart points out in his superb analysis of the latter document. "Although he might not have scribbled his 1863 address on the back of an envelope, as legend would have it, it should be no surprise that he wrote it fairly quickly. Lincoln had already done the hard work of the Gettysburg Address, the heavy intellectual lifting, in 1861. The two intervening years would go to pare away the nonessentials, to sculpt 6,256 words of prose into 246 words of poetry."



Among the threads deftly woven through this narrative spanning less than a year are the stories of the "contrabands" At first they were three escaped slaves who sought refuge in Fort Monroe, the Union bastion near Confederate-held Hampton, Virginia. This trickle soon became a torrent of thousands, and General  
*Continued on page 4*

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Founded January 24, 1951

The Dispatch is published monthly, except July and August, by

**The Civil War Round Table  
of New York, Inc.,**

139-33 250th Street,  
Rosedale, N.Y. 11422  
Telephone CWRT/NY at (718) 341-9811

During business hours.

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## November during the Civil War

### 1861

1 – Scott is out. McClellan is in and he can do it all. Unhappily, he doesn't do enough.

7 – Hiram Ulysses Grant goes amphibious and invades Belmont in Missouri directly across the Mississippi from Leonidas Polk's Gibraltar at Columbus, Ky.

### 1862

4 – The Democrats do well in the local elections but the Republicans still rule the House. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

5 – President Lincoln determines that Little Mac not only doesn't do it all but he isn't doing anything to fatigue his horses, and replaces him with an honest soldier, Ambrose Burnside, who knows he is not the man for the job.

### 1863

21 – President Lincoln finally gets something he can give to everybody. A mild case of smallpox.

25 – Federal troops, without orders, charge up the ridge at Chattanooga, infuriating Grant, until he sees that they have overrun line after line of Confederate defenses.

### 1864

2 – Secretary of State Seward warns New York's mayor of an attempt by Confederate terrorists to burn down the city. The attempt becomes a reality on the 25th. This date was a national holiday (not Thanksgiving). See page four for its name.

30 – John Bell Hood plays hell in Tennessee (at Franklin) and loses 6,200 men to the Union's 2,300. He'll do worse at Nashville..

### Quote, Unquote

"The best time of my life was spending Sundays in the park with George."

Ellen Marcy McClellan

*From Minor Quotes from Major Figures by Alton Blaney*

### Who Am I?

I was born in Savannah, Georgia, served in the U.S. Navy for 14 years, but opted to fight for the CSA. I was the purchasing agent for Jefferson Davis in England and one of my best "buys" was the *Alabama*. My nephew became president of the United States.

See page 4 for answers.

### New Recruits

**David Sexter** from Long Beach Ca, who is interested in the Civil War in song.

**Cary Diamond**, a former member, who has just rejoined us.

### AMALGAMATIONIST

"Blending the two races by amalgamation is just what is needed for the perfection of both, a white Boston clergyman wrote in 1845. Few American abolitionists were proponents of amalgamation but many were called amalgamationists by pro-slaveryites in the two decades or so before the Civil War. This Americanism, for one who favors a social and genetic mixture of whites and blacks, is first recorded in 1838 when Harriet Martineau complained that people were calling her an amalgamationist when she didn't know what the word meant.

From *Word and Phrase Originals* edited by Robert Hendrickson

### Mea Culpa

All unsigned articles are written by the editor.



*Continued from page 2*

Benjamin Butler and the Lincoln administration had to decide how to deal with these refugees. One of the delights of *1861* is the skillful depiction of people and organizations: the odious Texan, Louis T. Wigfall; the brave Elmer Ellsworth and his Fire Zouaves; the disciplined Wide-Awakes, campaigning for Lincoln in 1860; the ill-fated Corwin Amendment passed by both houses of Congress, but ratified by only one state; the St. Louis German immigrants; and many more. Through all these wonderful vignettes, the author never loses sight of the war's main goal: a new birth of freedom. "Swept away forever would be the older America, a nation stranded halfway between its love for decades in policies of appeasement and compromise."

"One person at a time, millions of Americans decided in 1861, as their grandparents had in 1776...that it was worth risking everything, their lives and fortunes, on their country...on a vision of what its future could be and what its past had meant. Eighteen sixty-one, like 1776, was – and still is- not just a year, but an idea.

With its fascinating attention to detail and its grand sweep of history, this book is the story of those people and that idea.

*By Michael Wolf*



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### Answer from 11/2/1864

**From page 4.** Americans celebrated November 25th as Evacuation Day from 1783 to 1917. That was the day that British troops finally left America after the Revolutionary War.

### Answer to the mule question

**From page 1.** Perhaps nothing better illustrates Washington's pioneering farm work than his development of the American mule, a hardy animal representing a cross between a male donkey and a female horse. Mules were more fragile than horses but more docile than donkeys and cheap to maintain. Before Washington had championed these creatures, they had hardly existed in this country. In addition to his better-known title of Father of his Country, Washington is also revered in certain circles as the Father of the American Mule.

From *Washington* by Ron Chernow.

### Answer – Who Am I?

**From page 4.** James Dunwoody Bulloch. His nephew was Theodore Roosevelt.