

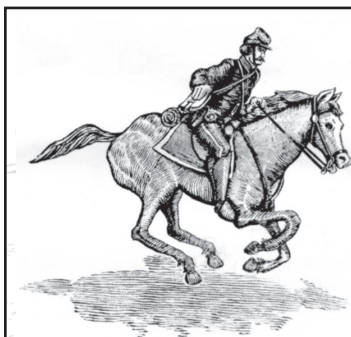
THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 60, No. 3

544th Meeting

November 2010



• Guest:
West Point Night
Major Joseph Scott
*Thaddeus Lowe and
the Aeronauts*

• Cost:
Members: \$35
Non-Members: \$45

• Date:
**Wednesday,
November 10th**

• Place:
**The Three West Club,
3 West 51st Street,
Meeting on the 3rd Floor**

• Time:
**Dinner at 6 pm,
Doors open 5:30 pm,
Cash Bar 5:30 – 7 pm**

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

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

His Sister Became His Mother-in-law!!

Franklin Gardner (1823-1870) was a Confederate general best noted for his service at the Siege of Port Hudson. He was born in NYC and married Matilde Mouton, who was a daughter of Alexander Mouton, a former U.S. Senator and governor of Louisiana. After Mouton's first wife died he married Emma K. Gardner, the oldest sister of Franklin Gardner. Thus did Franklin Gardner's sister become his mother-in-law.

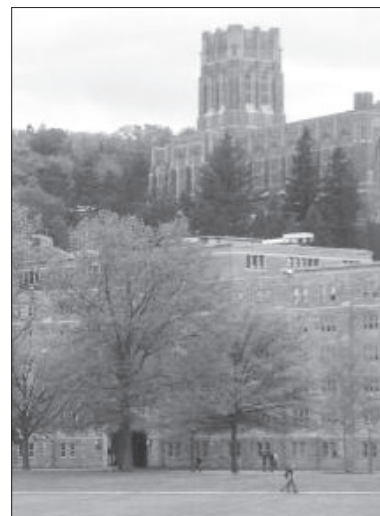
[editor's note: at least he was not his own grandpa]

submitted by Mike Snyder of Pottstown, Pa.

West Point Night

Major Joseph Scott
*Thaddeus Lowe and
the Aeronauts*

Our West Point speaker has a B.A. from Dartmouth College and an M.A. in history from the University of Virginia. His military education includes: U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic Course (Fort Bliss, Texas) and US Army Air and Missile Defense Captains Career Course (Fort Bliss). His research experience includes: 2010: Graduate research at Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library; 2009-2010: Graduate research at National Archives and Army Military Institute; 2003 Unit Operation Historian, Operation Iraqi Freedom; 2000: Undergraduate thesis research at Columbia University Oral History Research Office. He has a proficient knowledge of Russian and conversational knowledge of Spanish and he is currently teaching military history at West Point.



54th Annual Battlefield Tour

"For A Good Time, Jine The Cavalry"

This year's tour will focus on the battle of Cedar Mountain, and the two largest cavalry battles fought during the Civil War – Brandy Station and Trevilian Station. We will also tour Mosby's Confederacy. Our

tour guide will be cavalry expert Bud Hall. So saddle up with Stuart or Custer and ride to the sound of the guns on May 19th–22nd, 2011.

Call John Sheehan for details: 917-539-1417.

A \$100 deposit to reserve your place can be mailed to our HQ at 139-33 250th Street, Rosedale, N.Y., 11422.

2010 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2011

• **December 8th** •
Jeff Richman
Green-Wood Cemetery

• **January 12th** •
Steve Laird
Lee and Jackson at
Chancellorsville

• **February 9th** •
TBA

President's Message

November is upon us and we look forward to the holiday season. But before we enjoy this season, I want to remind you to thank those whose efforts allow us to have our freedoms: Veterans. Most European countries use Nov. 11th to commemorate those who President Lincoln said "gave their last full measure of devotion". Americans are lucky in that we can honor our dead in May on Memorial Day and can honor all veterans in November. So when you see a Vet, thank him or her for their service.

— Charles Mander

Book Review

A Vast and Fiendish Plot

by Clint Johnson

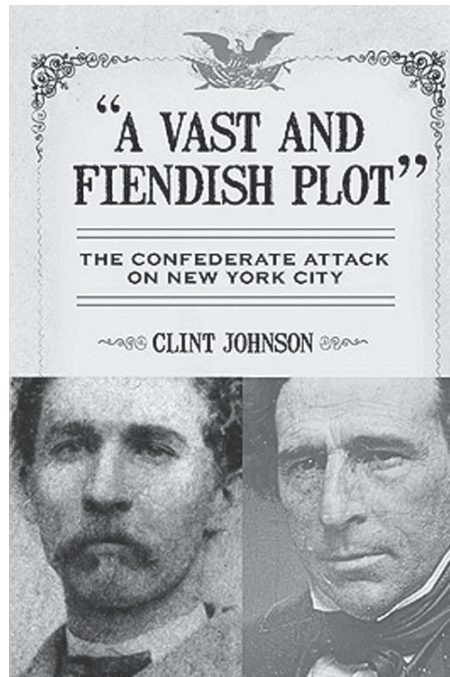
If ever a book was written for the CWRTNY, this is it. Subtitled *The Confederate Attack on New York City*, it could also be *The Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight*.

On the evening of November 25, 1864, six Confederate Secret Service operatives (of obviously limited intellect) tried to set simultaneous fires in 19 New York hotels (there's a good street map showing the location of each hotel), but failed. The klutzes didn't realize that their liquid Green Fire needed oxygen to be effective and they didn't open the windows and doors of the hotel rooms. Damage was minimal, no one was injured (except for one of the plotters whose neck was broken by a Union Army rope at Fort Lafayette, following a secret trial by a military commission), and this fiasco passed into history.

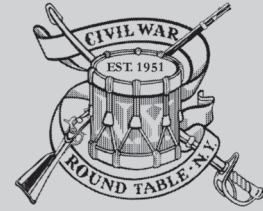
One other plotter, Robert M. Martin of Kentucky, was arrested there shortly after the war but was freed by a New York judge due to lack of evidence – he was the ringleader! He lived in Brooklyn from 1874 to 1888, returned to New York in 1900, and is buried in Green-Wood Cemetery.

This is a good story and Clint Johnson (*The Pursuit*, about the chase, capture, imprisonment, and release of Jefferson Davis, already reviewed here) tells it well. He's done a lot of research in primary sources and is smart enough to begin some sentences with "If Headley's book is to be believed." John Headley, one of the conspirators, wrote a detailed memoir in 1906; how accurate is it? Who knows?

Continued on page 4



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November during the Civil War

1861

1 – Old Fuss ‘n Feathers is pushed out by the pushy G.B. McClellan, the boy Napoleon. After the Peninsula Campaign and Antietam, Bonaparte turns over in his grave.

6 – Provisional President Jefferson Davis wins a 6-year term as president of the C.S.A. Unhappily for those south of the Mason-Dixon line, his tenure ends in 3 years and 5 months.

1862

1 – Ben Butler frees all imprisoned slaves “not known to be slaves of loyal owners.” Just how many loyal owners were there in the South’s most populous city?

7 – The boy Napoleon is relieved of his command of the Army of the Potomac, mostly on account of because of his “slows.” A general who is positive he can’t handle the job takes over: Ambrose Sideburns.

Mea Culpa

All unsigned articles are the work of the editor.

Some Civil War generals. Permanent residents in Green-Wood

Green-Wood Cemetery is the resting place for some 41 Union generals including Fitz-John Porter, Edwin Ferrero, and Henry Halleck. And two Confederate generals, Nathaniel Harris and Robert Selden Garnett, who was buried in an unmarked grave, next to his wife and child. Today, thanks to the efforts of Jeff Richman, the cemetery’s historian, Garnett has a brand new gravestone. Buried next to Henry Halleck is his wife, Elizabeth, and next to her is George Washington Cullum, Halleck’s adjutant, who married Halleck’s widow. Twenty feet to the right is the grave of Schuyler Hamilton. Both Halleck’s wife and Schuyler were grandchildren of Alexander Hamilton.

New Recruits

Jeff Swarz who is interested in everything.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Tyls who are friends of Charles Mander.

Bob and Susan Quigley. Our older members will remember that Bob spoke to us many years ago on his book, *Civil War Spoken Here*.

Theresa and Andres Morales.

Interests: Lincoln, Slavery & Reconstruction.

1863

9 – President Lincoln relaxes at one of his favorite pastimes, the theater, as he watches a Maryland actor star in “The Marble Heart.” Booth is the actor’s name.

21 – The president finally has something he can give away to everybody: a mild case of smallpox.

1864

2 – Secretary of State Seward warns the mayor of America’s largest city of rumors that Confederate terrorists will try to burn it down on election day. It never happens. The prediction is off, however, by only a few weeks. The attack comes on November 25, when J.W. Booth is performing in *Julius Caesar* at the Winter Garden Theater. (See the book review)

9 – Uncle Billy Sherman leaves the super aggressive John B. Hood to George Thomas, feeling that the loyal Virginian can handle him. Thomas can and does but the operative word is “manhandle,” not “handle.”

Dues are due

If you haven’t already paid your dues, please send your checks in now. After October, the price rose to \$50. If we don’t hear from you by January 1, we will be obliged to drop your name from our mailing lists. Sorry about that.

We now have three yearly dues categories:

	Individual	Family
First Category	\$40	\$60
Second Category	\$50	\$75
Third Category	\$100	\$150

You may choose any appropriate amount to send in, but it will be greatly appreciated if you are able to remit the amounts in the second or third categories.

Out-of-towners (75 miles or more) and students (full or part time and under 25) pay \$15.00 unless you are covered by your parent’s payment. If you joined up between January and March 2010, you owe only \$15.00. If you joined up in April, May, or June, you get a freebie.

**Dues should be sent to Charles Mander,
24 Wilcox Place, Fairlawn, N.J. 07410**

DO NOT include your dues and dinner payment on the same check.

Continued from page 2

I really like the first 85 pages as Johnson gives an excellent account of New York's evolution to a pro-Southern city that tolerated slavery here (until it was abolished in 1827) and in the South, and actively participated in the illegal slave trade until as 1861. Between January 1859 and August 1860 at least 85 slaving voyages originated from New York, "transporting between 30,000 and 60,000 slaves from Africa to Cuba."

The second segment of the book, about 75 pages, is a cursory explanation of why the Confederacy wanted revenge for Phil Sheridan's and William T. Sherman's depredations in the Valley and in Georgia, and for the still-controversial Dahlgren raid in early 1864.

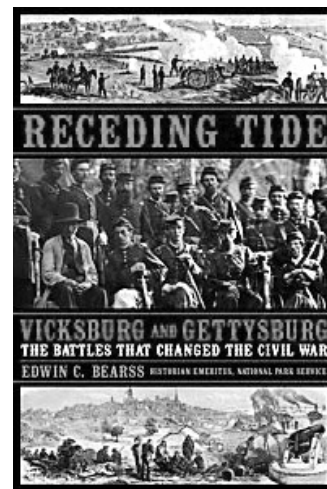
But once the story of the plot, hatched in Montreal, gets going, it's a corker. New Yorkers will appreciate the street-by-street detail and we're told exactly what happened where. Despite being written for the general reader (which is probably why I didn't care much for the story of the Civil War in 75 pages!) this book will be enjoyed by all RT members and not just New Yorkers.

By Michael Wolf

Just like a man

Geary [John] promptly marches off into the night with two of his brigades, commanded by men whose names complement each other – Col. Charles Candy and Gen. Thomas L. Kane. Geary is a large, boisterous, and overbearing man. He's six feet six inches tall and well over 250 pounds. He was the first and youngest mayor of San Francisco, and Geary Street there is named for him. In the late 1850's, he was territorial governor of Bleeding Kansas, where he clamped down on both Border Ruffians and Jayhawkers. But he isn't in San Francisco or Kansas on the night of July 2, and he gets lost in the dark and marches his men down the Baltimore Pike, finally stopping on the south side of Rock Creek. Instead of countermarching, in typical male fashion he refuses to ask for directions. He just stays where he is.

Page 351 *Receding Tide* by Ed Bearss with J. Parker Hills.



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OF NEW YORK**

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