

THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 59, No. 8

539th Meeting

April 2010



- Speaker:
Peter Cozzens
- Cost:
Members: \$35
Non-Members: \$45
- Date:
Wednesday, April 14th
- Place:
The Three West Club,
3 West 51st Street,
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 April 7th, if you plan to attend the April meeting.

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

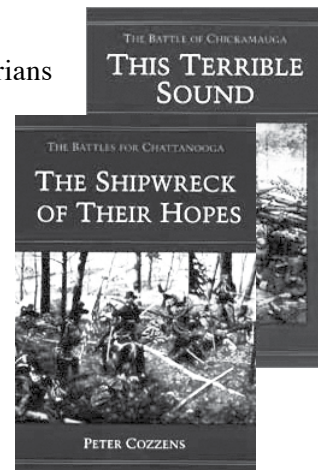
• Peter Cozzens •

Peter Cozzens is one of the nation's leading military historians and the author of sixteen acclaimed books on the American Civil War and the Indian War of the American West.

He also is a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State.

All of his books have been selections of the Book of the Month Club, History Book Club and/or the Military Book Club. *This Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga* and *The Shipwreck of Their Hopes: The Battles for Chattanooga* were both Main Selections of the History Book Club and were chosen by *Civil War Magazine* as two of the 100 greatest works ever written on the conflict.

Peter received the American Foreign Service Association's highest award, given annually to one Foreign Service Officer for exemplary moral courage, integrity, and creative dissent. He also received an Alumni Achievement award from his alma mater, Knox College.



53rd Annual Battlefield Tour

The 52nd Annual Battlefield Tour to Gettysburg, PA last May led by Gary Kross was a great success.

The 53rd Annual Battlefield Tour will take us to 1st and 2nd Manassas, Cedar Mountain, Brandy Station and Ball's Bluff.

This will be a bus tour and is scheduled for May 13 - 16. A \$100.00 deposit to reserve your place can be mailed to our HQ at 139-33 250th St., Rosedale, NY 11422



2010 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2010

• May 12th •

William L. Shea
Fields of Blood
Fletcher Pratt Award Winner

• June 16th •

Patrick Falci
The Man in the Red
Battle Shirt

• September •

TBA

President's Message

This month, we meet on a day made famous by tragedy (and I'm not talking about tomorrow's tax deadline). On April 14, 1865, President Lincoln was shot at Ford's Theater. And in 1912 on April 14th, over 1500 lives were lost with the sinking of the Titanic, something that a former member of this Round Table, Walter Lord, called a "Night To Remember".

To get to our meeting, fans of the great Stonewall will hear a wonderful speaker, Peter Cozzens, talk on the Shenandoah Campaign of 1862. This should be very interesting.

— Charles Mander

Book Review

Wade Hampton III *by Robert K. Ackerman*

One measure of Wade Hampton's standing among his fellow South Carolinians is that he and the sainted John C. Calhoun are the state's two representatives in Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol. In 1860, Hampton (1818-1902) owned 12,000 acres and a thousand slaves in Mississippi, the land valued from \$50 to \$500 an acre. His 1861 cotton crop brought \$1.2 million and all of it was destroyed in the war. In 1868 he was bankrupt, with his heavily mortgaged plantation gone, seized by federal troops.

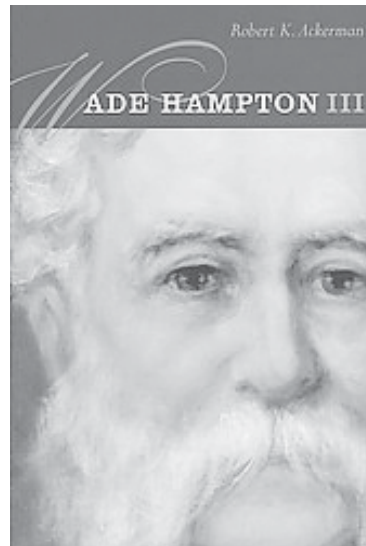
Like many wealthy planters, Hampton opposed secession because he feared the loss of his pre-war prosperity. However, once the die was cast, Hampton became a loyal supporter of the war. He returned to South Carolina and recruited and equipped the Hampton Legion. President Jefferson Davis commissioned him a colonel, and his men were signed up for twelve months.

Robert E. Lee appointed Hampton to succeed Jeb Stuart as commander of the Confederate Cavalry Corps in August 1864, following Stuart's mortal wounding at Yellow Tavern. Hampton received his third star, becoming one of only three Confederate Lieutenant Generals who didn't graduate from West Point. You'll read about the others at the end of this review.

Hampton's Civil War exploits occupy about one third of this book's 272 pages. Most of this book describes race and politics in post war South Carolina and I found it interesting and rewarding. Ackerman, a retired history professor, has written several books on South Carolina history.

Those two other generals were Richard Taylor (Zachary Taylor's son) and Nathan Bedford Forrest.

By Michael Wolf



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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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April in the Civil War

1861

13 – Fort Sumter surrenders and the Union troops head for Fort Hamilton in the town of New Utrecht. Future Confederate B.G. Roger Pryor watches the evacuation. He dies in 1919, the last man to have seen the famous bombardment that began the Civil War.

17 – Jefferson Davis announces that the Confederate government will accept applications for letters of marque, tantamount to authorizing piracy. One of the most famous Pirates of all was a man named Ralph Kiner.

1862

6 – The Rebels attack at Pittsburg Landing spoiling U.S. Grant's breakfast upriver and the future writer of *Ben Hur* manages to get lost heading for the fight at a place called Shiloh.

12 – James Andrews rides the *General* into American history and does not survive, but he gives Buster Keaton an idea for a movie.

1863

5 – Great Britain, after two years of helping the Confederate nation build warships, suddenly realizes it is supposed to be neutral and detains several vessels bound for the South.

1863 (continued)

18 – Federal troops destroy the salt works at New Iberia, L.A. Southerners have to use another condiment to season their food and Doctor Pepper is born.

1864

8 – Zach Taylor's son, Richard, advances on Sabine Crossroads expecting to find the famous women there. Happily, he meets Nathaniel Banks and his superior Union force. Naturally, Taylor forces Commissary Banks and his men in blue to skedaddle.

22 – Congress orders the phrase, "In God We Trust" to adorn U.S. coins, leading Madalyn Murray O'Hair to say, "Thank God I'm an Atheist."

1865

26 – Boston Corbett sets the stage for Jack Ruby 98 years later as he shoots J.W. Booth in a barn in Virginia.

30 – The war doesn't quite end at Appomattox. Richard Taylor surrenders his troops in May and Kirby Smith holds out until June..

⋮ NEW RECRUITS ⋮

Thomas P. Lowry - a well known historian from Woodbridge, Virginia

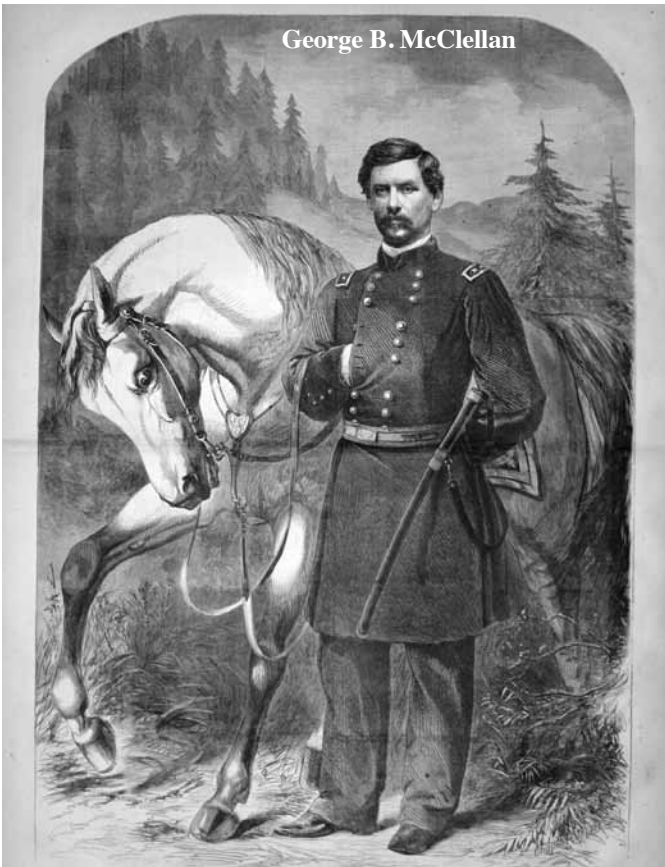
Who said this?

Referring to Robert E. Lee: He is "too cautious & weak under grave responsibility – personally brave & energetic to a fault, he yet is wanting in moral firmness when pressed by heavy responsibility & is likely to be timid & irresolute in action."

(See page 4 for the answer)



George B. McClellan



::: Answer to Who Said This :::

This is a description of Lee, given by George B. McClellan in April 1862, when he heard of Lee's appointment as Jefferson Davis's chief military adviser in Richmond, in charge of military operations of the Confederate armies. It is quoted in Joseph T. Glaathar's piece on Lee's first month in command of the army of Northern Virginia, and is referenced to an April 20, 1862 letter to President Lincoln in "The Civil War Papers of George B. McClellan Selected Correspondence 1860-1865," edited by Stephen W. Sears, pages 244-245.



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