


THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 71 No. 12

666th Meeting

April 2024



- Guest:
Anthony J. Czarnecki
Lincoln's Secret Visit to West Point
- Date:
TUESDAY,
April 30th
- Time:
6:00 pm
- Place:
Villa Mosconi,
69 Macdougall St.,
Greenwich Village

This is an in-person event, to hear him, you must be here. Come join us, have a lovely homey Italian meal, and visit with your fellow Civil War enthusiasts. Just call 718-341-9811 or send an email to make a reservation.

Anthony J. Czarnecki

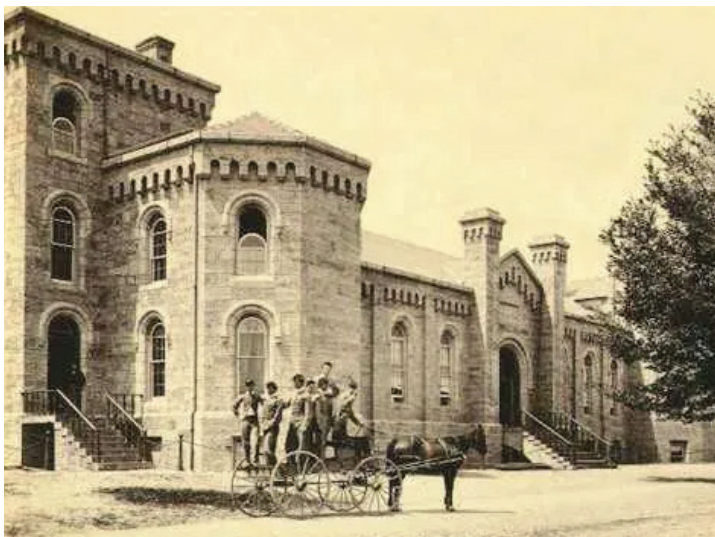


Anthony J. Czarnecki is a graduate of Iona College and earned a master's degree in criminal justice from John Jay College and an MPA from Pace University. He started his career as a County Probation Officer in Westchester and was the first recipient of APPA's "NATIONAL PROBATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD" in 1981. He is a past president of the N.Y. State Probation Officers Association and the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association.

For 25 years, Czarnecki worked as Chief of Staff at the Westchester County Department of Correction, serving six Commissioners of Correction, before his retirement in 2008. He is currently the president of The Chartwell Group USA, a criminal justice consulting firm, and is senior adjunct professor of criminal justice at Westchester Community College. In 2016 Czarnecki was the recipient of the prestigious "SUNY CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING".

Czarnecki serves on the Board of Trustees of the Westchester County Historical Society and the Sing Sing Prison Museum. He is a self-described "history detective", with published research on Lincoln's 1861 visit to Peekskill, the origins of both the jail and probation systems in Westchester County, Churchill's 1932 lecture in White Plains, the Kennedy Family years in Westchester County, Lincoln's secret visit to West Point in 1862, FDR's 32 public appearances in Westchester County, and Aaron Copland's 30 years of residency in Westchester County.

Czarnecki is a past president of the Lincoln Society in Peekskill, NY and now serves on the governing board of the Lincoln Group of New York. He holds active membership in the Society of Civil War Historians and the Organization of American Historians.. Czarnecki was recently appointed by Westchester County Executive George Latimer to serve on the County government's nine-member Correction Advisory Board.



2024 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2024

• **Tuesday, April 30th** •
Anthony J. Czarnecki on
Lincoln's Secret Visit to West Point

• **Tuesday, May 28th** •
Victor Vignola, Fletcher Pratt Winner
*Contrasts in Command:
The Battle of Fair Oaks*

• **June 2024** •
No meeting

President's Message

For the past several nights, I have been streaming the series *Manhunt*, based on the book by James L. Swanson. It started me wondering, just how long it would take to track down Booth today. Days, hours, minutes? With GPS on our phones and in our cars, it certainly wouldn't take that long. But what if Booth got rid of his cell phone. He would probably drive (forget about the horse) down I95 or another E-ZPass toll road, which would still make it easy to track him down. And don't forget about drones. And of course, his face would be plastered all over TV, and we would all receive those jarring alerts on our phones. No, there really would be no place for Booth to hide.

Just a thought!

Pat Holohan



Question of the month:

Late in 1862, what city was regarded in Washington as the "best starting point for Chattanooga"?

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AN AMERICAN CIVIL WAR BATTLE WAS FOUGHT OFF THE COAST OF FRANCE

While most U.S. Civil War conflicts occurred on American soil, the Battle of Cherbourg was a rare exception — it took place all the way across the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of France. This sea skirmish occurred on June 19, 1864, between two opposing warships, the Union's USS Kearsarge and the Confederacy's CSS Alabama. The battle was the result of an effort by Union ships to track down Confederate raiders across the globe. Given the U.S. Navy's loyalty to the Union, the Confederacy contracted various shipyards in Britain to help expand their fleet, which the neutral British government did little to prevent at the time. The Alabama had been secretly built in England, and set sail across the Atlantic in January 1863. The warship struck and sank the USS Hatteras off the coast of Galveston, Texas, before changing course toward Southeast Asia. During this global excursion, it captured 65 Union merchant ships before returning to Europe in 1864 for much-needed repairs.

The crew of the Alabama docked in Cherbourg Harbor on June 11, believing they'd likely be safe in neutral French territory. However, on June 14, the Kearsarge came upon the enemy ship and created a blockade out at sea. Over the next several days, Union Captain John A. Winslow and Confederate Captain Raphael Semmes prepared their respective ships for battle, and the Alabama fired the first shots on June 19. The fighting drew the attention of spectators who gathered on the shore to witness the skirmish. After an hour, the Alabama began sinking, though most of its crew members were rescued by a nearby British yacht. While Semmes escaped into England and evaded capture, the battle was a decisive victory for the Union Army, which had toppled one of the Confederacy's most destructive warships.

From: historyacts.com



BLUE & GRAY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION AND THE GETTYSBURG FOUNDATION PRESENT THE 3RD ANNUAL

Civil War Medicine SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, May 4, 2024
8 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Ford Motor Company Fund Education Center
in the Gettysburg National Military Park
Museum & Visitor Center

*Learn about the fight that
took place behind the lines—
the struggle to save lives*

Register Today



Covers topics on Civil War medicine and its importance in the overall study of the American Civil War.

- People who served as caregivers
- Medical equipment used
- Trauma care
- Disease impacts on the health of soldiers
- Field relief organizations and their roles

Both in-person and virtual attendance options available. Reservations are required in advance by phone or online. Blue & Gray Hospital Association members and Friends of Gettysburg enjoy member rates.

Reservations close April 26, 2024.

Register online at [GettysburgFoundation.org](https://www.GettysburgFoundation.org)
or call 717-334-2436 to register by phone.



GETTYSBURG
FOUNDATION
[GettysburgFoundation.org](https://www.GettysburgFoundation.org)

O Captain! My Captain!

BY WALT WHITMAN

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done,
The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won,
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring;

But O heart! heart! heart!
O the bleeding drops of red,
Where on the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead.

O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;
Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the bugle trills,
For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths—for you the shores a-crowding,
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;

Here Captain! dear father!
This arm beneath your head!
It is some dream that on the deck,
You've fallen cold and dead.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still,
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will,
The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done,
From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won;
Exult O shores, and ring O bells!
But I with mournful tread,
Walk the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead.

From: Poetry Foundation, Leaves of Grass

New York Times, April 16, 1865

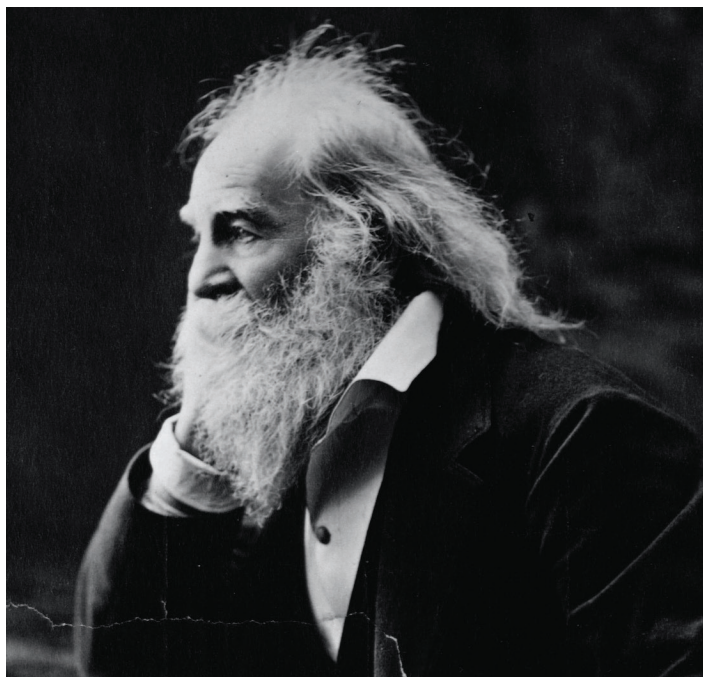
OUR GREAT LOSS; Death of President Lincoln. The Songs of Victory Drowned in Sorrow. CLOSING SCENES OF A NOBLE LIFE. The Great Sorrow of an Afflicted Nation. Party Differences Forgotten in Public Grief. Vice-President Johnson Inaugurated as Chief Executive. MR. SEWARD WILL RECOVER. John Wilkes Booth Believed to be the Assassin. Manifestation of the People Throughout the Country. OFFICIAL DISPATCHES.

New Book Releases

Twelve Days: How the Union Nearly Lost Washington in the First Days of the Civil War, by Tony Selber,
Publisher: Potomac Books, July 1, 2023, \$20.43 HC
Amazon, pp 400

The Demon of Unrest, by Erik Larson,
Publisher: Crown, April 30, 2024, \$19.79 HC, Amazon,
pp 592

The Unvanquished: The Untold Story of Lincoln's Special forces, the Manhunt for Mosby's Rangers and the Shadow War that Forged America's Special Operations, by Patrick K. O'Donnell,
Publisher: Atlantic Monthly Press, May 7, 2024, \$27.00 HC
Amazon, pp 432



Mission Statement:

Our mission is to promote the study, research and social aspects of the American Civil War. People with all levels of interest and knowledge are welcome here.

Answer

Nashville, Tennessee