


# THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 71 No. 9

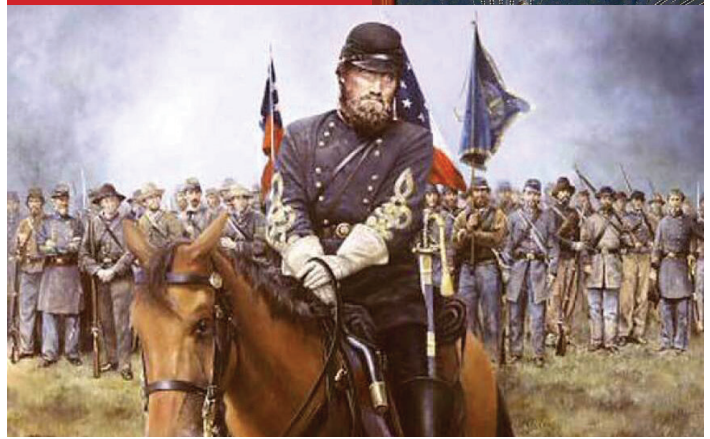

663rd Meeting

January 2024



- Guest:  
**Pat Falci** on  
Stonewall Jackson  
at 200
- Date:  
**TUESDAY,**  
**January 23<sup>rd</sup>**
- Time:  
**6:00 pm**
- Place:  
**Villa Mosconi,**  
**69 Macdougall St.,**  
**Greenwich Village**

*This month's speaker will be our own Pat Falci speaking on Stonewall Jackson at 200. 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. To make a reservation please call 718-341-9811 before Saturday, January 20th.*



**Pat Falci**  
on  
**Stonewall**  
**Jackson**  
at 200

## CWI SUMMER CONFERENCE | JUNE 7-12, 2024

The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College has rolled their 2024 summer conference. If you are interested or need more information you can contact Dr. Ashley Whitehead Luskey, Assistant Director, Civil War Institute, Gettysburg College, 717-337-6592.

Program includes active battlefield experiences, lectures, and interactive small-group discussions with leading Civil War scholars; customizable packages are available!

Call our office for your discount code! Be sure to inquire about our other numerous discounts for military veterans, Gettysburg College alumni, members of local partnering institutions & publications, K-12 educators, public historians, students, youths, and "new attendee recruiters!"

<https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/2024-cwi-conference>

**Questions?** Contact [civilwar@gettysburg.edu](mailto:civilwar@gettysburg.edu) or 717-337-6590 for further information.



**CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE**  
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

## 2024 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2024

• **Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>** •  
**Pat Falci** on  
Stonewall Jackson at 200

• **Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>** •  
**Baroness-Lincoln Winner**  
**George Rable**

• **Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>** •  
**John Portanova** on  
Grant the Man

## President's Message

Welcome to the 2024 season of your Civil War Round Table. I think we can all agree that our new home at Villa Mosconi is working out just fine. The staff is very friendly and the food is always delicious – and to top it off - no more lines and tickets. This year, our VP of Programs, Pat Falci has some exciting speakers lined up for 2024 which you won't want to miss.



Sadly, this year we lost two long time members, Dan McCarthy and Steve Basic. Dan was a member of the board, and we will miss his insightful suggestions.

This month Pat Falci will speak on Stonewall Jackson at 200. So please join us at Villa Mosconi and enjoy good food and friends.

Pat Holohan



# THE DISPATCH



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During business hours.

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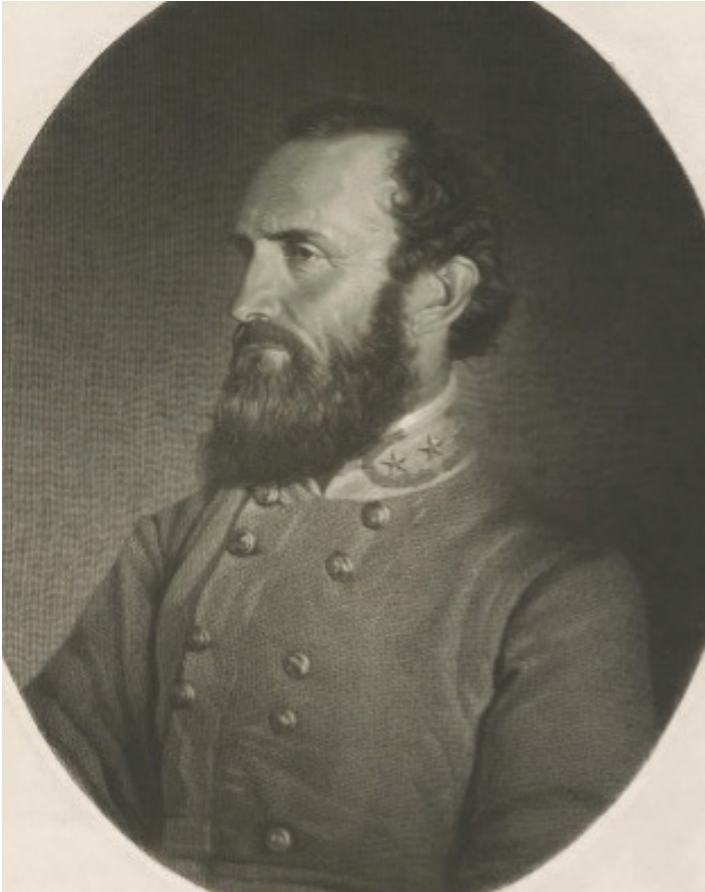
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# THOMAS J. “STONEWALL” JACKSON

## ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD, CEDAR CREEK & BELLE GROVE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK



Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson, 1860s  
Library of Congress

“Stonewall” Jackson went from being an orphan to one of the most valued generals in the Confederate Army.

He was born Thomas Jonathan Jackson on January 21, 1824, in Clarksburg, West Virginia. Self-educated, Jackson went to West Point Military Academy and graduated 17th in his class. As a US Army officer he fought in the Mexican War. He had some quiet years after that, teaching military tactics and physical science at the Virginia Military Institute. He spent summers enjoying art and culture.

Then in 1861, the Civil War started, and Jackson led troops to battle for the Confederacy. He got his nickname at the Battle of Bull Run in Virginia. During the gunfire and confusion of the battle, Confederate Gen. Barnard E. Bee said, “There is Jackson standing like a stone wall.” The soldiers under his command came to admire his stubborn courage and started calling him “Stonewall” Jackson. As a general, he fought in many battles, until he was wounded by friendly fire at the Battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia in 1863 and died 8 days later from pneumonia.

### SHENANDOAH VALLEY

In spring of 1862, Jackson unleashed a vigorous offensive that diverted thousands of Federal troops from their massive advance against the Confederate capital at Richmond.

With US Gen. George B. McClellan advancing on Richmond with 100,000 soldiers, Jackson had orders to cause a strategic distraction in the Shenandoah Valley. Using aggressive tactics and knowledge of the Valley’s terrain, Jackson fought and beat several Federal commanders up and down the Valley from late March to early June. The Federals’ retreat from Shenandoah Valley let Jackson’s army join Gen. Robert E. Lee’s besieged army near the Confederate capital at Richmond.

### PENINSULA TO MARYLAND

**Jackson often played the role of the audacious** “hammer” of the army of Northern Virginia, taking quick and assertive offensive action. His roles in the Northern Virginia Campaign of August 1862, however, were an interesting blend of hammer (offensive) and anvil (defensive). Sent north to disrupt US Gen. John Pope’s oppressive treatment of the people of Northern Virginia, Jackson successfully executed a sweeping flanking maneuver that placed his command in the rear of Pope’s Army of Virginia. From this position he successfully captured the Federal army depot and all of the supplies at Manassas Junction before taking

## QUICK FACTS

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Lieutenant General Commanding Second Corps, Confederate Army of Northern Virginia

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Clarksburg, WV

**DATE OF BIRTH:** January 21, 1824

**PLACE OF DEATH:** Guinea Station, VA

**DATE OF DEATH:** May 10, 1863

**PLACE OF BURIAL:** Lexington, VA

**CEMETERY NAME:** Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery

up a defensive position and effectively inviting Pope to assault him.

Pope obliged and for two days (August 28-29), Pope pounded Jackson as Longstreet and the remainder of the army marched north to reach the battlefield. Jackson held out despite delays in getting Longstreet's troops into action, even when his men were reduced to hurling rocks when they ran out of ammunition. This allowed for Longstreet to launch "the largest, simultaneous mass assault of the war" on August 30, sending more than 28,000 men into the left flank of the Union army.

When Lee decided to cross the Potomac and invade the North in the Maryland Campaign, he had intended to push toward Baltimore, Washington, or Pennsylvania, but became concerned about the Union presence in and near Harpers Ferry. In Special Orders 191 Lee sent Jackson

to capture Harpers Ferry, which he accomplished on September 15. Jackson then pushed his men to join the rest of the army at Sharpsburg, Maryland.

Jackson arrived in time to bear the brunt of the Federal advances on the northern end of the battlefield in the morning phase of the Battle of Antietam on September 17. Just as it looked like the battle would be lost when Burnside's men began to turn the right of the Confederate line, A.P. Hill, leading the last elements of Jackson's Corps, arrived on the field from Harpers Ferry and stopped the Federal Advance.

Following the battle Jackson was promoted to Lieutenant General and his command redesignated as the Second Corps on October 10.

*From: National Park Service: nps.gov*

## COLLECTION OF TOY SOLDIERS

Recently we had the opportunity to visit the office of Michael Connors to get a look at his collection of toy soldiers. With more than 10,000 miniatures set up in historically accurate battle scenes, Michael continues to add to his collection. Although the collection is predominately Civil War, WWII, the Revolutionary War, and other

wars are also included. What prompted Michael to start collecting was a birthday gift of toy soldiers to his son, Michael Jr., who has his own collection as well. If you would like to learn more about Michael's collection, you can check it out on **You Tube**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeTad9uh00k>



# WHAT IS WATCH NIGHT?

## THE NEW YEAR'S EVE TRADITION THAT DATES BACK TO THE CIVIL WAR

The tradition of Watch Night services in the United States dates back to Dec. 31, 1862, when many Black Americans gathered in churches and other venues, waiting for President Abraham Lincoln to sign the Emancipation Proclamation into law, and thus free those still enslaved in the Confederacy.

It's still being observed each New Year's Eve, at many multiracial and predominantly Black churches across the country.

As the Civil War raged on, Lincoln issued an executive order on Sept. 22, 1862, declaring that enslaved people in the rebellious Confederate states were legally free. However, this decree — the Emancipation Proclamation — would not take effect until the stroke of midnight heralding the new year.

Those gathering on the first Watch Night included many African Americans who were still legally enslaved as they assembled, sometimes in secrecy.

“At the time, enslaved Black people could find little respite from ever-present surveillance, even in practicing their faith,” explains the National Museum of African American History and Culture. “White enslavers feared that religion, which was often used to quell slave resistance, could incite the exact opposite if practiced without observance.”

Over its 160-year history, Watch Night has evolved into an annual New Year's Eve tradition — it not only commemorates freedom from slavery, but also celebrates

the importance of faith, community and perseverance.

This description from the African American museum offers some details:

“Many congregants across the nation bow in prayer minutes before the midnight hour as they sing out ‘Watchman, watchman, please tell me the hour of the night.’ In return the minister replies ‘It is three minutes to midnight’; ‘it is one minute before the new year’; and ‘it is now midnight, freedom has come.’”

The museum notes that the Watch Night worship services were traditionally followed by a “fortuitous meal” on New Year's Day, often featuring a dish called Hoppin' John.

“Traditionally, Hoppin' John consists of black-eyed peas, rice, red peppers, and salt pork, and it is believed to bring good fortune to those who eat it,” the museum says. “Some other common dishes include: candied yams, cornbread, potato salad, and macaroni and cheese.”

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## New Book Releases

**The Man Who Saved Cincinnati**, by Peter Branson.  
Published: October 2023, by Chilidog Press LLC, pp 294  
\$20 Amazon

**Thunder in the Harbor: Fort Sumter and the Civil War**,  
by Richard W. Hatcher, III. Published: December 2023,  
by Savas Baetie, pp 256 \$23.93 Amazon

**Longstreet: The Confederate General Who Defied the South**, by Elizabeth Varon. Published: November 2023,  
by Simon & Schuster pp 480 \$27.95 Amazon

**THIS POEM WAS WRITTEN BY LIEUTENANT SETH WALLACE COBB (1838-1909) OF JERUSALEM, VIRGINIA, WHO FOUGHT IN COMPANY A OF THE 18TH VIRGINIA HEAVY ARTILLERY BATTALION. HE MAILED THIS POEM TO HIS SWEETHEART VICTORIA A.M. (DAVIDSON) FARRAR (1848-1900) ON OCTOBER 14, 1863.**

I am thinking of thee in this twilight hour  
And I'm lonely weary and sad,  
For the day is done and the night has come  
And there's nothing to make me glad.

I am thinking of thee and I almost start  
And fancy that though are near  
But a sigh will rise to my anguished heart,  
Like an echo of wild despair.

I am thinking of thee as I sit here alone,  
And ponder on days that's past  
And they've flown away – like a summer day  
Too bright and too happy to last.

I am thinking of thee and I long to sit  
By thy couch of sickness and pain  
And smooth thy pillow, and press thy hand  
And make thee well again.

I am thinking of thee – Oh! Would I could share  
Thy every ill on earth  
And love thee so fondly that sorrow and care  
Should fly at their earliest birth.

I am thinking of thee, canst thou doubt [illegible]  
Or wonder that I am sad,  
For thou art my all, and the tears will fall  
For there's nothing to make me glad.

I am thinking of thee and I long to press  
Thy fevered hand in mine  
And ask thee if love more true and warm  
Has ever been known than mine.

*From: The Virginia Museum of History and Culture  
Virginiahistory.org*

