

THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 67, No. 10

621st Meeting

June 2018



**You must call
718-341-9811 by
June 4th if you
plan to attend the
June meeting.**

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

• Guest:
Patrick Schroeder
The Appomattox Campaign:
Lee's Retreat... Grant's
pursuit

• Cost:
Members: \$50
Non-Members: \$60

• Date:
**Monday,
June 11th**

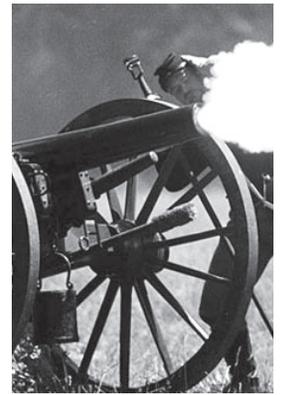
• Place:
**The Three West Club,
3 West 51st Street**

• Time:
**Dinner at 6:00 pm,
Doors open 5:30 pm,
Cash Bar 5:30 – 7 pm**

Patrick Schroeder The Appomattox Campaign: Lee's Retreat... Grant's pursuit

Our June guest was raised in Utica, N.Y. and is a graduate of Shepherd College, Shepherstown, W. Va. He holds an MA in Civil War History from Virginia Tech.

From the summer of 1986-1993 he worked as a seasonal living history interpreter at Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park. In 1993 he wrote *Thirty Myths About Lee's Surrender*, which is currently in its twelfth printing. Among his other books are *Recollections and Reminiscences of Old Appomattox*; *Tar Heels*; *Sailor's Creek*; *General Custis Lee, Captured With Controversy*; and many others



A Rough Civil War Museum

In a past *Dispatch* we read about a Mutter Museum (Philadelphia) exhibit, *Broken Bodies, Suffering Spirits*, that showed photos of mutilated soldiers, "ball forceps" for extracting bullets, and the famous Minie ball, which splintered bone, and was fatal when it hit a soldier in the torso, among other items. .

One part of the article had the following:

Some of the material focuses on black soldiers. "Men of Color: To Arms! To Arms! Now or Never," a recruiting poster exhorts. But blacks who answered the call were given inferior food, supplies and medical care, and as a result had higher rates of disease than whites.

Black soldiers were seven times as likely as whites to contract smallpox, probably because they were less likely to have been vaccinated. And one black regiment had 150 deaths in a single summer from scurvy, or vitamin C deficiency, caused by a lack of fresh food.

N Y Times 1/21/2014

Surprising Addition to Confederate Forces

One paragraph in a N.Y. *Times* article of April 5, 2018, gave a surprise answer to the question as to an unusual enlistment duo.

The article by Yunte Huang read as follow: And the twins did seem determined to be identified as Southern gentry. In addition to owning slaves, they supported the Whigs, and became ardent supporters of the Confederacy, sending two of their sons [out of 21 children] to fight in the Civil War.

Who were they? Answer on page 4



2018 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2018

• **Wednesday** September 12th •
Ed Bearss
Ask Ed Anything

• **Wednesday** October 10th •
William C. (Jack) Davis

• **Monday** November 12th •
TBA

President's Message

We are coming to a close of another season of Civil War discussions and await the return of Ed Bearss on September 12th and William (Jack) Davis in October.

In June I will be speaking at the Breezy Point Civil War Club about some Irish-born generals of the Civil War, specifically Fighting Tom Sweeney, with a taped assist from Ed Bearss.

Subject: Breezy Point Civil War Club
 Date: June 20, 2018
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Place: Breezy Point Activity Center
 204-10 Rockaway Point Boulevard, Breezy Point, New York

In July Martin Smith will also be speaking at the Breezy Point Civil War Club on the topic of "Preserving the Battlefields."

Subject: Breezy Point Civil War Club
 Date: July 18, 2018
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Place: Breezy Point Activity Center
 204-10 Rockaway Point Boulevard, Breezy Point, New York

Please let us not forget our esteemed member, Peggy Eason, who returns for one night only to perform some of her favorite songs and old standards.

Subject: Peggy Eason
 The Chocolate Diva Gets Romantic
 Date: Saturday, July 28, 2018
 Time: 2:00 PM
 Place: The Laurie Beechman Theatre
 407 West 42nd Street, Downstairs at the West Bank Cafe
 New York, New York

There is a \$20 food/beverage minimum per person.

Those of us who were present at her last concerts can attest that you will be in store for a truly enjoyable evening.

The board and I wish everyone a pleasant and safe summer and do not forget Ed Bearss on Wednesday, September 12, 2018.

MICHAEL N. CONNORS

61st ANNUAL BATTLEFIELD TOUR

Join Us As We Conclude Our Journey With...

The Appomattox Campaign: Lee's Retreat...Grant's Pursuit!

Thursday to Sunday, October 11-14, 2018

This year the Round Table will conclude its four-year Virginia journey as we travel the bloody roads South to RICHMOND, PETERSBURG AND—FINALLY—APPOMATTOX! The Round Table's 61st Annual Tour Guides include MIKE GORMAN from the Richmond National Battlefield and PATRICK SCHROEDER AND ERNIE PRICE from the Appomattox National Battlefield. They will complete the dramatic story of April 1865 as we walk in the actual footsteps of Lincoln, Grant, Lee and the hundred thousand soldiers who fought, died and suffered to bring peace to the greatest conflict in American history.

To Reserve Your Place:

Send your \$100 check (made out to "CWRTNY") and your complete contact information with your home phone number, cell phone, home address and email address to: Martin Smith/CWRTNY Tour, 158 West 81 Street #24, New York, NY 10024.

As a reminder, we need you to make reservations a week before the meeting - we must notify the 3 West Club at least 48 hours (business days only) before the meeting. Because we now meet on Mondays, there is no window if you call us the weekend before. Also, if you don't show up for the meeting after making a reservation and we have called in a certain number, we may have to pay for your dinner anyway, So from now on, we're going to charge the guest rate - \$60 - if you fail to make a reservation, and if you have a pattern of not fulfilling your reservations, we may ask you to pay for dinner. Now, we understand emergencies - illness, transportation problems, etc. We just ask that you let us know as soon as possible - that might allow us to fit in a late reservation. A little consideration would eliminate some of the guesswork we're required to use every month.

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

139-33 250th Street,
 Rosedale, N.Y. 11422
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During business hours.

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June/July During the Civil War

1861

June 2 – Milledge L. Bonham is relieved of command in Northern Virginia. Who? Anyway, he is succeeded by Monsieur Beauregard, the one with three initials before his surname.

June 3 – The Little Giant, one of Mary Todd's old beaux, Stephen Douglas, dies at 48. No one disputed his dedication to the country.

July 4 – Galusha Grow is elected speaker of the House. We just don't have names like this anymore.

July 11 – William Rosecrans outgenerals John Pegram at Rich Mountain and George B. gets the credit.

1862

June 25 – The Seven Days campaign before Richmond begins with a battle known as Oak Grove, or King's School-House, or French's Field, or The Orchard. Who can sort all these names out?

June 26 – The Battle of Mechanicsville, or Beaver Dam Creek, or Ellerson's Mill.

July 11 – Bad, bad news for the Western Confederates. Fighting Henry Halleck is called East. Now Grant can continue the war.

July 13 – The Wizard of the Saddle shows off his wizardry by capturing Murfreesboro, Tennessee, home of the old Met announcer, Lindsay Nelson.

1863

June 7 – In a painful blow to Jefferson Davis and his family, their plantation, Brierfield, is burned and sacked by Federal troops.

June 9 – J.E.B. (my friends call me Jeb) Stuart gets a surprise at Brandy Station and barely staves off the Bluecoats. Next are his problems getting to Gettysburg.

July 1-4 – From John Buford's heroic resistance, to Pickett's doomed charge, the East's biggest battle turns the Rebels back to old Virginy.

1864

June 3 – Grant's admittedly worst mistake at Cold Harbor, a total and costly failure.

June 9 – The *Kearsage* catches up with the beat-up *Alabama* and sinks her off the French coast.

July 9 – In Monacacy, Lew Wallace's boys slow down Jubal Early's march toward Washington and provide breathing room for some very nervous Northern cities.

July 17 – The impetuous, bellicose, J.B. Hood, replaces the cautious, careful J. E. Johnston, and when the weather gets cold, will destroy the Army of Tennessee, near Nashville.

Equal Time is Granted to the Spencer Carbine

The most advanced infantry weapon in the world of its times, the Spencer carbine was patented in 1860 by Christian Spencer, a machinist who developed it on his own time while he worked in Hartford, Connecticut, for the Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company. It was the world's first practical repeating rifle and fired a .52 caliber metallic rimfire cartridge. Lowering the trigger guard opened the breech and extracted the spent cartridge. Raising the lever caused a new cartridge, pushed into position by a spring in the 7-round magazine tube, to be locked into the firing chamber. The hammer had to be manually cocked before pulling the trigger. To reload the weapon the magazine tube could be pulled from the stock and another with seven fresh cartridges inserted.

With few parts, the Spencer was easy to manufacture and performed rapidly on the battlefield. Its rapid fire provided a clear advantage over muzzleloading rifles like Enfields and Springfields. In the chaos of battle, the muzzleloaders were fired in an aimed manner initially but after few shots, frantic reloading replaced the patience required to draw a bead on a target. A trained soldier could get off two or three shots a minute with a muzzleloader until the barrel fouled with deposits. With the Spencer, the soldier could fire 20 to 30 times a minute if he had a ready supply of preloaded magazine tubes. A unit equipped with Spencers possessed a tactical advantage over a similar number of troops armed with muzzleloaders. The carbine was a shorter version of the rifle and was introduced primarily for cavalry use in 1864. The effective range – about 500 yards – was the same as the longer rifle. Between the rifle and the carbine versions, about 48,000 of these weapons were in use by 1865.

The Spencer was first accepted by the United States Navy in 1862 and later by the Army. For cavalrymen who fought at close range, the Spencer was the weapon of choice. Early use included the Battle of Hoover's Gap, where Colonel John T. Wilder's "Lightning Brigade" of

mounted infantry effectively demonstrated the firepower of repeaters, and the Gettysburg campaign, where two regiments under Brigadier General George Armstrong Custer carried them. As the war progressed, Spencers were carried by Union cavalry and mounted infantry regiments and provided the Union army with a firepower advantage over the Confederates.

Colonel Wilder said, "Hoover's Gap was the first battle where the Spencer repeating rifle had ever been used, and in my estimation, they were better weapons than has yet taken their place, being strong and not easily injured by rough usage of army movements, and carrying a projectile that disabled any man who was unlucky enough to be hit by it." One of his soldiers wrote the Spencer "never got out of repair. It would shoot a mile just as accurately as the finest rifle in the world. It was the easiest gun to handle in the manual of arms drill I have ever seen. It could be taken all to pieces to clean, and hence little trouble to keep in order – quite an item to lazy soldiers."

From *The Surratt Courier* April 2018 by Wesley Harris

Editor's note: The description of the Spencer was aptly put by a Confederate officer who allegedly said, "It's a rifle that you could load on Sunday and shoot all week long!"





NEW RECRUITS

Saul Roth from the North Shore CWRT

Peter Horan from Beacon NY who is interested in Sidney Johnston

Lt. Col. Ken Kotta rejoins us. He is retired USAF

Evan Abraham a teacher from East Meadow

DRESS CODE

Ladies and gentlemen: PLEASE

No sneakers, no jeans, no tee shirts. Gentlemen, please wear a collared shirt. Let's dress like we are attending a business meeting.

Thanks, The Management

Answer from page 1

Chang and Eng, the Siamese Twins, who lived in Mt. Airy, N.C. where they are buried under the name of Bunker.



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OF NEW YORK

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