

THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 70 No. 3

649th Meeting

November 2021



If you plan to attend our in-person meeting at the 3 West Club, please call 718.341.9811 no later than November 2nd. The cost is \$50 for members and \$60 for guests.

• Guest:
**MAJ
Thomas McShea**

• Date:
November 10th

• Place:
3West Club

• Time:
6:00 pm

MAJ Thomas McShea

MAJ Thomas McShea was born in Cornwall, New York and graduated from the United States Military Academy in 2010. He commissioned as an Armor officer and was first assigned to 1-32 Cavalry, 1st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Bastogne), 101st Airborne (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell. There he served as a Scout Platoon Leader, Troop Executive Officer, and deployed to Kunar, Afghanistan as a combat advisor to an Afghan National Army reconnaissance company. Following Career Course, CPT McShea was assigned to 2-1 Cavalry, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson. There he served as the Squadron Planner and completed two Troop commands over 22 months. Following command, CPT McShea entered the University of Georgia and graduated in 2020 with an MA in American History. He is currently an instructor in the American History Division at the United States



Many officers had favorite horses, whom they named and treated almost like members of family. There is no record that a single lowly mule was ever identified by name in a military report. Yet the mule was to Civil War units what the Jeep became in the era of mechanized warfare. Pound for pound, practically all mules were stronger than horses. That meant they literally pulled armies from one battlefield to another. Several hundred of them -anonymous, like all the rest – were basic to one of the war's strangest raids. For seventeen days, Col. Abel D. Streight led men mounted on 800 mules through the hills of northern Alabama. Although his 'mule brigade' was the talk of the North for a while, it went down in defeat before horse-riding cavalymen of Nathan B. Forest.

From: *Civil War Trivia and Fact Book* by Webb Garrison



2021 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2021

• November 10th •
MAJ
Thomas McShea

• December 8th •
TBD

• January 12th •
TBD

President's Message

All that was missing was the playing of "Happy Days Are Here Again" as our Round Table had our first "live" meeting in over a year and a half. Those that were able to attend found the familiar fine food and friendly atmosphere at the 3 West Club that we enjoyed in the past.



We certainly hope as many of you as possible can make our next meeting on Wednesday, Nov 10, when will have scheduled a speaker from the USMA for our annual "West Point Night". Please call the listed number by Wednesday, November 3 to reserve your seat.

Even a casual review of November in the Civil War shows it to be a month of many momentous events. In November 1862, General McClellan was relieved of command and General Burnside named as the new commander of the Army of the Potomac – which he soon moved to the banks of the Rappahannock River, across from Fredericksburg. At about the same time, Generals Longstreet and Jackson were promoted, and appointed commanders of the 1st and 2nd Corps (respectively) of the Army of Northern Virginia – and, also moved west to Fredericksburg. General Joseph Johnston was sent to the Confederate Western Theater to "supervise" General Bragg in Tennessee and General Pemberton in Vicksburg.

The following November saw President Lincoln receive an invitation to deliver "some appropriate remarks" at the dedication of the new Soldiers Cemetery at Gettysburg – delivering a short speech which the world certainly DID "note and remember". While holding the high ground around the besieged Federals in Chattanooga, General Bragg (unwisely) sent General Longstreet and his Corps away to engage General Burnside in East Tennessee, while General Grant, Sherman, and Hooker all arrived with, many, many troops, and, from Nov 23 to Nov 25, soon captured all that high ground, driving Bragg completely out of the state. Longstreet failed in his attempt to capture Knoxville, and soon left Tennessee.

A year later, in November 1864, President Lincoln was reelected, easily defeating former General McClellan with 55% of popular vote, and with 212 Electoral votes to 21. Following the election, General Sherman began his epic march from Atlanta to the sea; while, back in Tennessee, where General Hood had failed to draw Sherman after him, also failed to trap a substantial Federal force at Spring Hill. Hood followed this up with a massive frontal attack on Franklin, which cost him about 6,500 men, with 1,750 killed, including six of his generals. A most bloody way to end this month of key turning points.

On behalf of Club's Officers and Board of Directors, we wish you a happy (and a "normal"!) Thanksgiving, and hope to see you – in person - on the 10th.

Thanks for your support!.

Paul Weiss

THE DISPATCH



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During business hours.

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Question of the month:

What Indian tribe was the first to declare its loyalty to the U.S.A.?

Civil War Events During the Month of November 1863

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>3 Engagement at Grand Coteau (Bayou Bourdeau), Louisiana</p> <p>4 Knoxville Campaign begins</p> <p>7 Battle of Rappahannock Station, Virginia</p> <p>16 Battle of Campbell's Station, Tennessee</p> <p>17 Longstreet lays siege to Knoxville, Tennessee</p> <p>19 President Lincoln delivers the "Gettysburg Address"</p> <p>20 Edward Everett sends complimentary letter to Lincoln on his address at Gettysburg</p> | <p>23 Battle of Orchard Knob begins near Chattanooga, Tennessee</p> <p>24 Battle of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee</p> <p>25 Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tennessee</p> <p>26 Mine Run Campaign begins in Virginia</p> <p>27 Engagement at Payne's Farm, Virginia</p> <p>29 Assault on Fort Sanders, Tennessee</p> <p>30 General Braxton Bragg resigns from command of the Army of Tennessee</p> |
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From: *American Battlefield Trust*

Battle of Lookout Mountain

Tuesday, November 24, 1863

As one of Confederate General Braxton Bragg's two high positions in his siege of Union forces at Chattanooga, Tennessee, Lookout Mountain becomes the site of the second major battle in the Chattanooga Campaign. General Grant orders Major General Joseph Hooker to make a demonstration attack against the Confederate forces on Lookout Mountain, under

command of General Braxton Bragg. Hooker sends Brigadier General John W. Geary on a full attack against the mountain, which succeeds despite heavy fog that shrouds the battlefield. Bragg considers retreating from Chattanooga, but Major General John C. Breckinridge convinces him to stay and fight at the strong position on Missionary Ridge.

Battle of Missionary Ridge

Wednesday, November 25, 1863

On the day after the Battle of Lookout Mountain, Major General Ulysses S. Grant orders an attack on Chattanooga, Tennessee. Despite the seemingly impregnable position of the Confederates, the Union assault succeeds in routing Bragg's forces. By the end of the battle and the Chattanooga Campaign the Confederate Army has lost one of its two largest armies, and the Union holds Tennessee and the city of Chattanooga, which will serve as a base for Sherman's 1864 campaign.

From: civilwaronthewesternborder.org



BEAT! BEAT! DRUMS! *by Walt Whitman*

Beat! beat! drums!—blow! bugles! blow!
 Through the windows-through doors-burst like a
 ruthless force,
 Into the solemn church, and scatter the congregation,
 Into the school where the scholar is studying;
 Leave not the bridegroom quiet—no happiness must he
 have now with his bride,
 Nor the peaceful farmer any peace, ploughing his field
 or gathering his grain,
 So fierce you whirr and pound you drums—so shrill
 you bugles blow.

Beat! beat! drums!—blow! bugles! blow!
 Over the traffic of cities—over the rumble of wheels in
 the streets;
 Are beds prepared for sleepers at night in the houses?
 no sleepers must sleep in those beds,
 No bargainers' bargains by day—no brokers or
 speculators—would they continue?
 Would the talkers be talking? would the singer attempt
 to sing?

Would the lawyer rise in the court to
 state his case before the judge?
 Then rattle quicker, heavier
 drums—you bugles wilder blow.

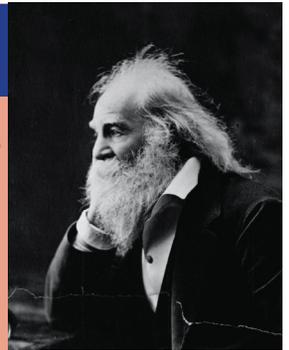
Beat! beat! drums!—blow! bugles!
 blow!

Make no parley—stop for no expostulation,
 Mind not the timid—mind not the weeper or prayer,
 Mind not the old man beseeching the young man,
 Let not the child's voice be heard, nor the mother's
 entreaties,

Make even the trestles to shake the dead where they lie
 awaiting thehearses,

So strong you thump O terrible drums—so loud you
 bugles blow.

From: *The Guttenberg Project* (gutenberg.org.)



Dues are due

If you haven't already
 done so, please send your
\$50 dues to:

Connors and Sullivan, PLLC
 Attn: CWRTNY Membership
 7408 5th Avenue
 Brooklyn, NY 11209

SUGGESTIONS

The Dispatch welcomes articles,
 book reviews (non-fiction only)
 and suggestions.

Just send them in to our mailing
 address.

Membership Poll

Recently the leadership of The Civil War Round Table of New York, its Officers and Board of Directors were eager to find out if our members were ready to start in- person meetings again. To this aim, an email was sent to all members with one question: are you now ready...willing... and able (meaning vaccinated) to come to an in-person meeting of the round table in Manhattan (hopefully at the 3 West Club)? The answer was either yes or no. Here are the results: out of 76 replies, 45 voted yes, and 31 voted no. Thank you to all those who voted.

Answer:

The Choctaws, who passed such a resolution on February 7, 1861.