

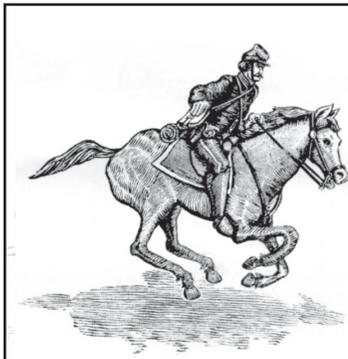
THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 68, No. 1

622nd Meeting

September 2018



• Guest:
Ed Bearss
Ask Ed Anything

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

• Date:
Wednesday,
September 12th

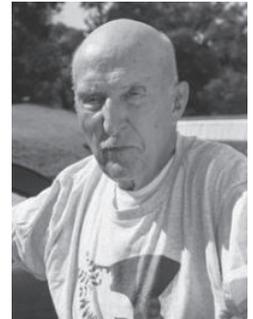
• Place:
The Three West Club,
3 West 51st Street

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

**You must call
718-341-9811 by
September 5th if you
plan to attend the
September meeting.**

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

Ed Bearss Ask Ed Anything



What more can we possibly say about our September guest, the winner of our prestigious Fletcher Pratt Award for *The Petersburg Campaign*? He is indeed a legend in his own lifetime and at 95 is still leading tours and lecturing without a note. After his wartime service in the South Pacific and recovery from serious wounds, Ed used the G.I. Bill to gain a degree in Foreign Service studies at Georgetown University in 1949. He received his M.A. in history from Indiana University in 1955, writing his thesis on Confederate General Pat Cleburne. Ed is the Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service and his books include: *Forrest at Brice's Crossroads* (1975), *Fields of Honor* (2006), and *Receding Tide: Vicksburg and Gettysburg* (2010).

A Final Furlough

"The rest of 'ems gone," she said
The Yanks were coming. They didn't have room in the cart.
"Did they leave any shoes?" said Luke.
She shook her head.
"I reckon you could maybe tear up a quilt. I reckon they wouldn't mind."
Luke grinned like a wolf.
"Got anything to eat? I'm hungry as hell."
They ate what food she could find and she washed his feet and bound them up in fresh rags.
He looked at the rags.
"Do for a while," he said. "Well, come along Soph. We got a long way to go."
"The Yanks were comin," she said. "you mean the war's over?"
He said, "I ain't had shoes for God knows how long."
Now I'm goin' to get me some shoes and raise me a crop,
And when we get back home, we'll butcher a hog. There's allus hogs in the mountains.
"Well," she said.
"Well, you get your duds," he said

She didn't have much.
They went along two days without being stopped.
She walked pretty well for a thin sort of girl like that.
He told her she'd get fatter when they were home.
The third day, they were tramping along toward dusk,
On a lonely stretch of road, when she heard the horse-hoofs.
Luke had heard them before and shifted his rifle then.
The officer came in sight. He was young and drawn.
His eyes were old in their sockets. He reined his horse.
"You're goin' the wrong way, soldier. What's your regiment?"
Luke's eyes grew little, "th Virginia," he drawled,
"But I'm on furlough,"
"H'm," said the officer,
"Where are your furlough-papers?"
Luke's hand slid down
By his trigger guard. "This here's my furlough," he said.
Resting the piece in the palm of the other hand.
The officer seemed to debate a thing in his mind
For a long instant. Then he rode on, in silence.
Luke watched him out of sight. When he was quite gone,
The hand slid back, the rifle was shouldered again.

Excerpted from *John Brown's Body* by Stephen Vincent Benet

2018 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2018

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

• **Monday November 12th** •
Peter Carmichael
The Common Man
in the Civil War

• **Monday December 10th** •
James I. (Bud) Robertson

President's Message

The president, officers, and the Board of Directors wish to extend their sincerest wishes that all of our members have enjoyed the summer. Our Fall season begins with the incomparable Ed Bearss, Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, who has perhaps the greatest battlefield history memory that anyone can lay claim to. This meeting will be called, quite simply, "Ask Ed Anything."

Please prepare your questions in advance and hand them in to our panel that day, in order that Ed will be equipped to answer immediately and succinctly. He has just turned 95 and his hearing is not as it once was. It should be noted that this would be an ideal opportunity to introduce new members to the round table and acquaint them with one of the foremost military historians of the modern era.

In October, we welcome another one of the legends among Civil War historians, Jack Davis. I cannot imagine a better start to our new year. Keep in mind that our September and October meetings will be on Wednesdays due to holiday scheduling; we will return to Mondays in November as we welcome Peter Carmichael to discuss, "The Struggle of the Common Man in the Civil War," and Bud Robertson in December, on a topic to be determined.

The location will be the same for all of the aforementioned meetings; our venue is the 3 West Club on 3 West 51st Street in Manhattan. Dates are September 12th, October 10th, November 12th, and December 10th, 2018. Warmest regards to all as the Fall chill sets in!

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.

Dues are due

If you haven't already paid your dues, please send your checks in now. After October, the price rises to \$60. If we don't hear from you by January 1, we will be obliged to drop your name from our mailing lists. Sorry about that.

We now have three yearly dues categories:

	Individual	Family	
Basic	\$60	\$80	
Silver	\$70	\$95	
Gold	\$120	\$170	
Out of Town	\$25	\$35	(75 miles or more)
Student	\$25		

New members please add \$10 initiation fee

You may choose any appropriate amount to send in, but it will be greatly appreciated if you are able to remit the amounts in the second or third categories.

**Send dues to CWRTNY 139-33 250th Street, Rosedale, N.Y. 11422
Do not include your dues and dinner payment on the same check.**

THE DISPATCH



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.

OFFICERS

President Michael Connors
V.P. Programs Kris Kasnicki
V.P. Operations Joan McDonough
Secretary Pat Holohan
Treasurer Bud Livingston

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term Expiring 2019

William Finlayson
Judith Hallock

Term Expiring 2020

Paul Weiss
Dan McCarthy

Term Expiring 2021

Beth Connors
Carolyn Roxon

Margaret Echanique:
Member at large

Editor E.A. (Bud) Livingston

Copy Editor/

Club Liaison Joan McDonough

P.R. Martin Smith

Merchandise Paul Weiss

Email: cwrtnyc1@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.cwrtnyc.org>

August/September During the Civil War

1861

August 1 – General R.E. Lee, advisor to President Davis, arrives in Western Virginia to coordinate and inspect various forces there. He will not have a pleasant experience.

August 4 – The Federal Congress authorizes President Lincoln to enlist seamen for the duration of the war. Oddly enough, blacks are included. They will serve in the Navy immediately but not in the Army until after the Emancipation Proclamation.

September 11 – General R.E. Lee learns what it is like to expect green troops to be veterans as he is highly criticized from newspapers, civilians and soldiers for the disastrous Cheat Mountain Campaign.

September 14 – The prickly Jefferson Davis rejects a complaint from the equally prickly Joseph E. Johnston about the ranking of Confederate generals. Their estrangement will last only four more years.

1862

August 14 – President Lincoln received a deputation of free Negroes at the White House to whom he said, "But for your race among us there could not be war... It is better for us both, therefore, to be separated." He advocated colonization in Central America and promised them help in carrying out the project.

August 29 – Second Battle of Bull Run – Jackson shines brightly and Pope does not.

September 2 – The Napoleon of the North, G.B. McClellan is restored to full command of the Army just in time to save the Union at Antietam where he could have ended the war just as he failed to do on the Peninsula.

September 19 – U.S. Grant, with William S. Rosecrans leading the main advance, drives at Iuka from Corinth. After a hard fight he bests Sterling Price who pulls out southward during the night. Does Rosecrans ever get enough credit or does he live forever as a duck hit on the head?

1863

August 1 – President Davis offers a pardon and amnesty to all soldiers who are AWOL and those who had not yet reported for service if they show up in 20 days. Somehow this promise does not reach the teenagers hiding in the woods, and a Missouri man named Samuel Clemens, who is now out West.

August 25 – Guerrilla warfare in Missouri and Bloody Kansas had reached its climax in the Lawrence Massacre four days before, and B.G. Thomas Ewing, in command at Kansas City, issues G.O. # 11. All persons in three counties in Missouri were to leave their homes. Those who could prove their loyalty to the Union would be permitted to stay at military posts. An estimated 20,000 people around Kansas City left. Barns, houses and crops were burned which made many people distraught, but not the guerrillas.

September 20 – At Chickamauga, due to a blunder of orders, Thomas O. Wood's Union division has been pulled out, leaving a gap in the Northern line. Longstreet's Corps, just arrived from Virginia, sees the opening and hits that area hard, driving two divisions away and causing a major portion to flee in confusion. Rosecrans, McCook and Crittenden were caught up in the retreat toward Chattanooga. Only Thomas's Corps remained and you all know what he did.

September 23 – The railroads do an unbelievable job in bringing Hooker's 11th and 12th Corps of the Army of the Potomac to the Chattanooga area, just as Secretary of War Stanton had predicted.

1864

August 5 – After the sinking of the USS *Tecumseh* by torpedoes (mines), Admiral Farragut, on the *Hartford*, is said to have shouted, "Damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead." And the fleet did just that in Mobile Bay.

August 21 – In a frustrating and embarrassing episode, Federal forces saw the Wizard of the Saddle and his critter company enter Memphis and hold it for part of the day, almost capturing Generals S. A. Hurlbut and C.C. Washburn, and then leave with few casualties.

September 1 – Hood, in a hurry to leave Atlanta, sets fire to extensive quantities of munitions and other supplies and begins to emulate his predecessor, Joe Johnston, in a retrograde movement in order to save his army for another day. So much for fighting and holding Atlanta.

September 7 – "I have deemed it to the interest of the United States that the citizens now residing in Atlanta should remove, those who prefer it to go South and the rest North." So wrote Sherman to Hood. Between September 11 and 20 they left, some 446 families totaling about 1,600 people. War is indeed Hell.

SUGGESTIONS

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

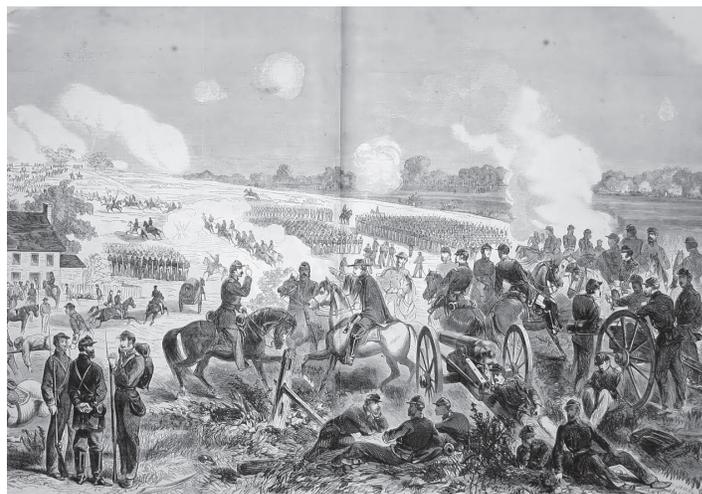
Just send them in to our mailing address.

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



A Brooklyn Soldier With the Red Legged Devils

Of all the fighting units Brooklyn sent to the Civil War, none shined so brightly as the Fourteenth State Militia. The regiment departed on May 20th (1861) for the South and they fought in all the major battles of the Eastern campaigns – Bull Run (1861 and 1862), Antietam, Fredericksburg, The Wilderness and Spotsylvania. In addition, the 14th won distinction in the Peninsula Campaign and at Gettysburg where it not only held off the rebels during the battle's first day, but helped to capture Joseph R. Davis's Mississippi Brigade.

The 14th repeatedly won praise from many quarters. One 149th New York Volunteer infantryman, after the first day's battle at Culp's Hill at Gettysburg, described the Fourteenth as a "bully fighting regiment." General Abner Doubleday called them the elite of his division and General Irvin McDowell praised them for their courage in the battle of First Bull Run. There they had not panicked as so many others had but left the field in good order.

Compliments also came from Southerners. Mississippi Captain W.C. Connors said that the Fourteenth Brooklyn, along with Griffin's and Rickett's batteries, fought the best at First Manassas. Even General Fitzhugh Lee, Robert E. Lee's nephew, mentioned the Fourteenth. After a skirmish at Falls Church, Virginia, in November 1861, he said they fought with ferocity unmatched by the other Federal troops.

John Vliet, a 26-year-old Brooklynite, fought with the Red Legged Devils, joining up in April 1861 "for the period of war." Nobody has written in greater detail or more vividly of the Fourteenth

Brooklyn than he. Oddly enough, after an initial letter to his mother, almost all of his correspondence went to his employer, Charles Collins, on Leonard Street, in Manhattan.

He had written to his mother about "seeing the elephant" at the First Battle of Bull Run, and the panic of the Union soldiers. Fearful that his mother would think the worst from reading the newspaper accounts, he wrote, "I have been spared this time...and hope if we are called into action again, to be better prepared."

Vliet received that call and "saw the elephant" many times as the Fourteenth fought in major and minor battles for three more years. The young soldier worked hard to be better prepared and he never again suffered from a case of "cowardly legs," as he had at Bull Run. On that terrible day, exhausted by a long double quick march to the chaotic battlefield, and with little water, Vliet found himself unable "to move one foot before the other." He collapsed under a tree that immediately took three rounds from the rebel batteries. Unafraid at first, but overwhelmed by the thought of being considered a coward, he spent five interminable hours cowering on the battlefield before he could summon the strength to flee. Barely able to move, with a "burning hot fever," he drank muddy water to try to slake his thirst, but to no avail. He staggered a short distance from the field and then flopped down on his blanket "to rest or die." At five in the morning, he awoke, sick to his stomach, "with a heavy white coating on my tongue." Fear of capture forced him to limp along into Centreville where he revived after a life-saving "bowl of coffee." He then had enough energy to reach camp in Arlington where he recovered completely.

From *A Brooklyn Soldier A Century Ago* by David M. Cory

More on John Vliet in a future issue.



THE DISPATCH

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
OF NEW YORK

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