

THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 70 No. 6

651st Meeting

February 2022



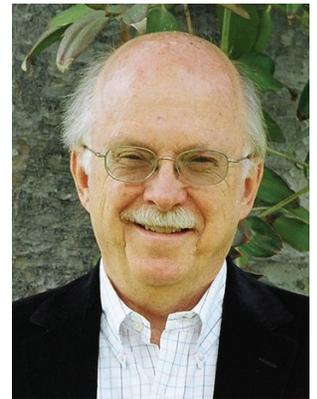
- Guest:
**Barondess/Lincoln Award winner
Ronald C. White**
- Date:
February 9th

**Zoom Meeting
7:00 pm**

If you plan to attend our February 9th Zoom meeting, please call 718-341-9811 no later than February 7th.

This year's Barondess/ Lincoln Award winner is Ronald C. White

Ronald C. White is the author of two New York Times bestselling presidential biographies. *American Ulysses: A Life of Ulysses S. Grant* [2016] won the 2017 William Henry Seward Award for "Excellence in Civil War Biography." He is also the author of *A. Lincoln: A Biography* [2009]. USA Today said, "If you read one book about Lincoln, make it A. LINCOLN."

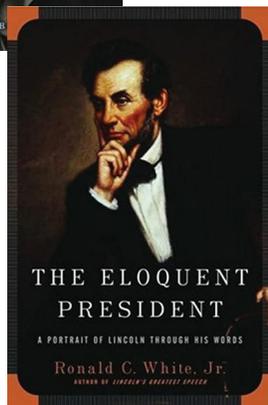
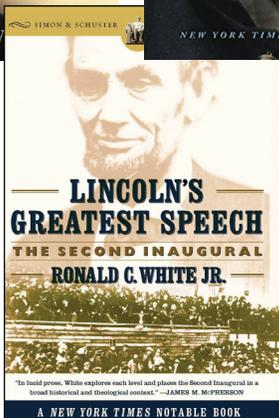
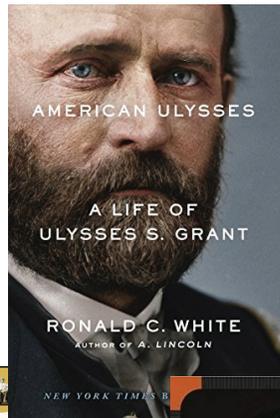
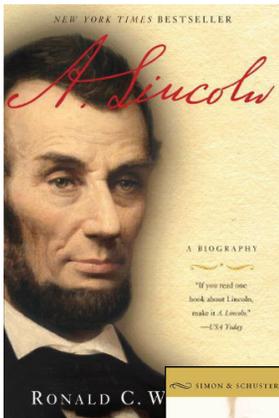


His new book, *Lincoln in Private: What His Most Personal Reflections Tell Us About Our Greatest President*, was published on May 4, 2021. The Wall Street Journal hailed it as "an intimate character portrait and fascinating inquiry into the basis of Lincoln's energetic, curious mind." White is also narrator of the Random House Audiobook.

He has also written *Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural*, a New York Times Notable Book, and *The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words*, a Los Angeles Times bestseller.

He is presently writing a comprehensive biography of *Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain*, the Bowdoin college professor who was the hero of Little Round Top at Gettysburg. After the Civil War Chamberlain became Governor of Maine, President of Bowdoin College, and a foremost lecturer on the Civil War.

Dr. White is a graduate of UCLA and Princeton Theological Seminary, receiving a Ph.D. in Religion and History from Princeton University. He is a Senior Fellow at the Trinity Forum in Washington, D.C. He has taught at UCLA, Whitworth University, Colorado College, and Princeton Theological Seminary. He has lectured at the White House and been interviewed on the PBS NewsHour. He has spoken on Lincoln in England, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, and New Zealand. He lives with his wife Cynthia in Pasadena California.



2022 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2022

• February 9th •
Barondess/Lincoln

• March •
NO MEETING

• April 13th •
TBD

President's Message

President Abraham Lincoln, as we all know, was born in February, an event that is justifiably celebrated every year (even though he now has to share it with Mr. Washington (and others).



February during the Civil War, as many months included triumph, tragedy, and, of course, the mundane. In 1861, as President-elect, Mr. Lincoln departed via train from his long-time home of Springfield, Illinois for his new position in Washington. Speaking to crowd of about a thousand of his friends and neighbors, he emotionally said, "Here I have lived a quarter of a century and passed from a young to an old man . . . I now leave not knowing when or whether ever I return."

February 1862, outside of any war news, was a tragic time for the President as his much beloved twelve- year son, William Wallace "Willie" Lincoln, succumbed to typhus fever.

Of note in 1863, Lincoln signed legislation setting up a national banking system, and establishing the Currency Bureau of the Treasury Department.

On February 1, 1864, under authority granted by the previously enacted Conscription Act, Mr. Lincoln ordered an additional 500,000 men drafted, to serve three years, for the duration of the war. On February 29 (1864 being a Leap Year), he approved legislation reviving the rank of Lieutenant General (three stars), which both he and the Congress meant for the promotion of Major General U.S. Grant, the victor at Vicksburg, and most recently, at Chattanooga.

The last February of the war found the President attending the "Hampton Roads Conference", along with Secretary of William Seward, meeting three Confederate "Peace Commissioners", led by Mr. Lincoln's old friend from Congress, Alexander Stephens. Any possible truce or further negotiations foundered on the President (and Seward) insisting on unconditional restoration of the Union, while Stephens, et.al, required negotiations proceed as if between two separate nations. Lincoln later told General Grant, "Nothing transpired or is transpiring with the three gentlemen from Richmond, is to cause any change, hindrance, or delay in your military plans or operations."

To help make your February more fulfilling, please plan to join us on February 9, for a "Zoom" meeting, where we will honor the author of this year's winner for the best book related to the 16th President.

Paul Weiss

Question of the month:

In the election of 1860 what percentage of the voters backed Abraham Lincoln, who had pledged to preserve the Union?



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Civil War Events During the Month of February 1864

- 2 Southern navy captures U.S. gunboat *Underwriter* but is forced to burn and flee
- 3 Union General William T. Sherman begins the Meridian Campaign in Mississippi
- 11 Skirmish at Lake City, Florida
- 14 Federal troops capture Meridian, Mississippi
- 17 Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley* sinks the *USS Housatonic*
- 20 Battle of Olustee (Ocean Pond), Florida
- 22 Engagement at Okolona, Mississippi
- 28 Kilpatrick's Raid on Richmond begins
- 29 George Custer's cavalry fights skirmishers during a raid on Albermarle County, Virginia

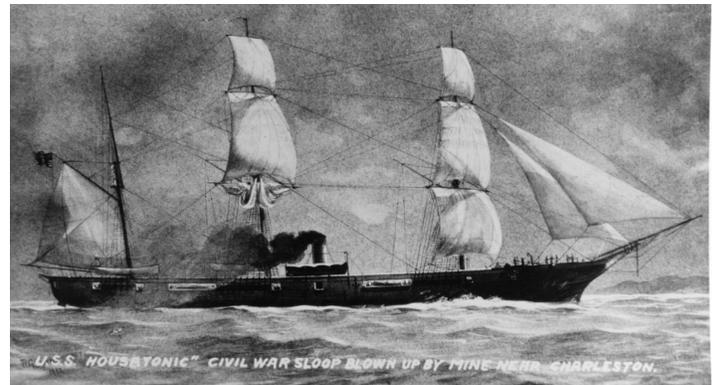
H.L. Hunley Sinks the *USS Housatonic*

USS Housatonic, a 1930-ton Ossipee class steam screw sloop of war, was built at the Boston Navy Yard, Massachusetts. Commissioned in August 1862, she arrived off Charleston, South Carolina, the following month to join United States' Navy forces blockading that Confederate seaport. During the next seventeen months, she played an active role, capturing or helping to capture several blockade runners, providing support for attacks on fortifications and otherwise assisting in operations against the Confederacy.

On 17 February 1864, while anchored off Charleston, *Housatonic* was attacked by the submarine *H.L. Hunley*, gaining the unwanted distinction of becoming

the first warship to be sunk by a submarine.

From: *AmericanCivilWar.com*



Engagement at Okolona, Mississippi

Meridian, Mississippi, near the Alabama border 130 miles east of Vicksburg, was an important Confederate railroad center and military facility. Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman set out for the town from Vicksburg in early February, 1864, with 20,000 men. Hoping to augment his force with cavalry, Sherman ordered the 7,000 troopers of Brig. Gen. William Sooy Smith to move south from Memphis February 1st and meet him at Meridian. Smith inexplicably delayed his march for ten days. When he eventually left, he encountered Confederate cavalry outposts on February 18th, 20th and 21st, and on February 22nd became engaged in a running battle with Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry in and around the village of Okolona,

halfway to Meridian. Dismounted and behind barricades, the Union cavalrymen were hit hard in front and on the flanks by Forrest's men. Withdrawing to high ground, Smith reformed his troopers. During the fighting there, Forrest's younger brother Jeffrey was killed. With Confederate reinforcements, Forrest routed Smith and chased the fleeing Yankees eleven miles, eventually running out of ammunition. Smith continued his retreat and limped back over the state line to Tennessee on February 26th. Sherman burned much of Meridian to the ground, and criticized Smith for putting the expedition in danger.

From: *battlefields.org*

THE LINCOLN CENT *by Anonymous*

Pleasant is the mellow tinkle
Of the golden eagle grand,
Pleasant is the kindly jingle
Of good silver in the hand;
But the little bit of copper
On its humble errand bent
Is the king of all our coins:
Hats off to the Lincoln cent!

I am glad they put him on it,
On the lowly copper bit,
Not upon the lordly eagle
For a banker's fingers fit;
For he loved the common people,
And he wished no other fate
Than that common folk should love him,
They, the basis of the state.

But I wish they'd put him on it
Of full length, the Lincoln size,
Tall and gaunt as stands a pine-tree,
Tall and stately for men's eyes.
He was awkward, so they tell me;
Be it so, and who would care
When they saw him like a column
Firm and patient standing there?



So he walks among the people
Much as when he lived on earth,
In the ways of homely traffic,
And of simple, gentle worth.
Still he walks among the people
On our common errands bent,
Copper king of all our coins;
Hats off to the Lincoln cent!

From: discoverpoetry.com



Answer:

Just under 40 percent.

SUGGESTIONS

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

Just send them in to our mailing
address.