

# THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 68, No. 11

631st Meeting

June 2019

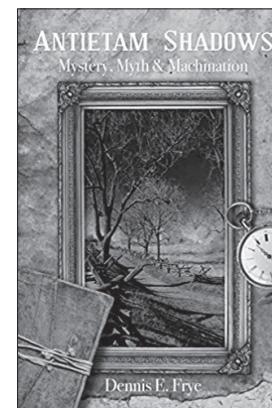


- Guest:  
Dennis Frye  
*Antietam Shadows*
- Cost:  
Members: **\$50**  
Non-Members: **\$60**
- Date:  
**Monday,**  
**June 10<sup>th</sup>**
- Place:  
**The Three West Club,**  
**3 West 51st Street**
- Time:  
**Dinner at 6:00 pm,**  
**Doors open 5:30 pm,**  
**Cash Bar 5:30 – 7 pm**

*You must call 718-341-9811 by June 3<sup>rd</sup> if you plan to attend the June meeting. We need to know how many people to order food for.*

## Dennis Frye *Antietam Shadows*

Dennis Frye retired last year as Chief Historian of Harpers Ferry National Park receiving the the Dept. of Interior's Distinguished Service Award, their highest honor. He has written 11 books and 102 articles on the Civil War. His most recent book, coming on the heels of *Antietam Shadows*, is *Confluence: Harpers Ferry as Destiny*. Dennis has also



appeared on many TV and movie documentaries, so if he looks familiar, you'll know why. He and his wife Sylvia live in Sharpsburg, where they have restored Gen. Burnside's headquarters as their home.

## Exit music

After 20 years of editing the Dispatch it has become time to call it quits.

I want to thank Pat Falci and Joan McDonough for helping me keep embarrassing details from appearing in each issue. It is important to recognize what they did every month in addition to their other contributions to the CWRTNY in so many areas.

I joined in 1974, seeing an ad about the CWRTNY in the personal notices column in the New York Times. It took me a while to get oriented but I finally got into the swing of things by becoming president, vice-president (thrice), treasurer, and editor of the newsletter. Oh, and I gave a couple of speeches along the way. Not bad accomplishments for an 88-year old to look back on. In fact, I was so amazed at how many people were so intensely interested in our favorite war that I personally paid for more ads in that same N Y Times column.

The first lecture I heard in 1974 was by B. Frank Cooling on The Scourge of Elmira. I don't think I missed another lecture for the next 30 years.

As to the *Dispatch*, I hope that I was able to make you laugh a few times with some of my fantasies in what happened that month in the Civil War. One particular item is worth repeating. I wrote that many farmers in Western Maryland were seen with a sign on their backs that read "We Support Our Troops," and my old friend, Marie Reno believed it. But then I told Marie with all sincerity, that my cousin's father was naturalized in River City, Iowa. She said, "Bud, that's an imaginary place!" So, we got even.

Thank you Mike for the tribute to me in the President's Message for May. I never read anything nicer.

As an ancestor of Edwin Cole Bearss wrote many years ago (in a slight variation)

"So goodbye friend and amen  
Here's hoping we meet now and then.  
It was great fun  
But it was just one of those things."

Bud

## 2019 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2019

• **Monday** September 9<sup>th</sup> •  
TBD

• **Monday** October 14<sup>th</sup> •  
TBD

• **Monday** November 13<sup>th</sup> •  
TBD

## President's Message

It is the end of the Civil War Round Table of New York's 2018-2019 season, and we are presently witnessing the changing of the guard. As I close my term, I wish to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you and our club as president.

Sitting in that seat has been a wonderful adventure for me. Preparing for my monthly radio interviews with each of our guest writers, rangers, and historians, has kept me on my toes. Also, it has been an incredible honor to meet and get to know Civil War scholars such as Jack Davis, John Marszalek, and Pulitzer Prize winner Ron Chernow. My heartfelt discussions with Bud Robertson will never be forgotten. Also not to be forgotten, when Ed Bearss stayed at our home, I had to scramble to make certain my military miniatures were displayed in good order to pass his inspection. All of this has been an astonishing mix of enjoyment and education.

I have learned something from each and every speaker, and I hope that all those in attendance have as well. Membership in the Civil War Round Table has been one of the highlights of my life. I have established close friendships over the past years and hope to expand our circle with future guests and members in the years to come. Our club is growing. It is rejuvenating to see faces new and old at every meeting.

We now turn over the reins to Kristofer Kaznicki as our new president, and our new vice president in charge of programming will be Margaret Echanique. Congratulations to both of you on your positions; there could be no members more qualified to lead us into our next season. We expect incredible years to come.

The Civil War Round Table of New York is a truly extraordinary organization. I felt it was a profound honor to serve as its president, and I look forward to being a member for many more years to come. The story of our nation's great struggle with our own identity must never be lost to history; may we continue to carry the torch of the lessons wrought from the blood, sweat, and tears of our forbears for generations to come. For this club, all is quiet along the Potomac, and the waters are flowing quite smoothly.

*MICHAEL N. CONNORS*

## 21st Century Newsletter

Just wanted to let you know that as of September, we will be switching to an all-electronic Dispatch. There are several reasons for this – the main one is that will save us over \$1000 in printing costs. But it will also give us freedom to make the newsletter longer at times, add more photos, be more timely, and give you more information about Civil War events. To that end, if you know of any Civil War talks, displays, performances, etc., please send the info to the RT email.

If we don't have your email address, please send it to us at the RT email address, and if you don't have an email or access to a computer, please let us know by phone or by dropping a note to the RT address (all of these are available on the newsletter masthead).

We hope you'll welcome these changes – we have thought long and hard about them.



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**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.

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## June During the Civil War

### 1861

3 – Governor Claiborne Jackson of Missouri said that by calling out troops President Lincoln threatened civil war and the action tended toward despotism. But Missouri holds and is one of four slave states that does not secede.

10 – The Home Guard under Nathaniel Lyon vs. the State Militia, and a riot in the streets of St. Louis. A visitor, W.T. Sherman, throws his son down and covers him with his body protecting him from gun fire.

### 1862

12 – Jeb Stuart gives G.B. McClellan the heebie jeebies as his troops ride all around the entire Federal army on the peninsula. Talk about embarrassment.

29 – The battle of Savage's Station. Rebel forces north of the Chickahomony crossed the stream and followed the retreating McClellan forces but to no avail. Little Mac is better at retrograde action than moving forward.

### 1863

9 – The Battle of Brandy Station, aka Fleetwood Hill, aka Beverly Ford, is the site of the greatest cavalry battle on American soil. A very surprised Jeb Stuart barely manages to stave off defeat.

27 – President Lincoln decides to relieve F.J. Hooker and names George Gordon Meade commander of the Army of the Potomac. A pretty good move.

### 1864

10 – General Samuel Sturgis and his federals, down from Memphis, have their chance to best the Wizard of the Saddle and immediately flunk out. Forrest forces the boys in blue to flee in a near rout, per usual.

19 – The *Kearsage* challenges the worn out *Alabama* off the coast of Cherbourg, France, and sinks the famed raider that Teddy Roosevelt's uncle, James Bulloch, purchased for the Confederates.

## WE ARE ALL AMERICANS

Two other Union corps were closing in on Lee's rear. Almost surrounded, outnumbered by five or six to one in effective troops, Lee faced up to the inevitable. One of his subordinates suggested an alternative to surrender: the men could take to the woods and become guerrillas. No, said Lee, who did not want all of Virginia devastated as the Shenandoah Valley had been; the guerrillas "would become mere bands of marauders, and the enemy's cavalry would pursue them and overrun many sections they may never [otherwise] have occasion to visit. We would bring on a state of affairs it would take the country years to recover from." With a heavy heart Lee decided that "there is nothing left for me to do but go and see General Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths." Lee sent a note through the lines offering to surrender. Grant's headache and Meade's illness vanished. The bleeding and dying were over; they had won. To the home of Wilmer McLean went Lee and Grant for the surrender formalities.

In 1861, McLean had lived near Manassas, where his house was a Confederate headquarters and a Yankee shell had crashed into his dining room. He moved to this remote village in southside Virginia to escape the contending armies only to find the final drama of the war played out in his living room.

The vanquished commander, six feet tall and erect in bearing, arrived in full-dress uniform with sash and jeweled sword; the victor, five feet eight, with stooped shoulders, appeared in his usual private's blouse with mud-spattered trousers tucked into muddy boots—because his headquarters wagon had fallen behind in the race to cut off the enemy. There in McLean's parlor the son of an Ohio tanner dictated surrender terms to the scion of a First Family of Virginia.

The terms were generous: officers and men could go home "not to be disturbed by U.S. authority so long as they observe their paroles and the laws in force where they may reside." This clause had great significance. Serving as a model for the subsequent surrender of other Confederate armies, it guaranteed southern soldiers immunity from prosecution for treason. Lee asked another favor. In the Confederate army, he explained, enlisted men in the cavalry and artillery owned their horses; could they keep them? Yes, said Grant; privates as well as officers who claimed to own horses could take them home "to put in a crop to carry themselves and their families through the next winter." "This will have the best possible effect upon the men," said Lee, and "will do much toward conciliating our people." After signing the papers, Grant introduced Lee to his staff. As he shook hands with Grant's military secretary, Ely Parker, a Seneca Indian, Lee stared a moment at Parker's dark features and said, "I am glad to see one real American here." Parker responded, "We are all Americans."

From *Battle Cry of Freedom* by James McPherson

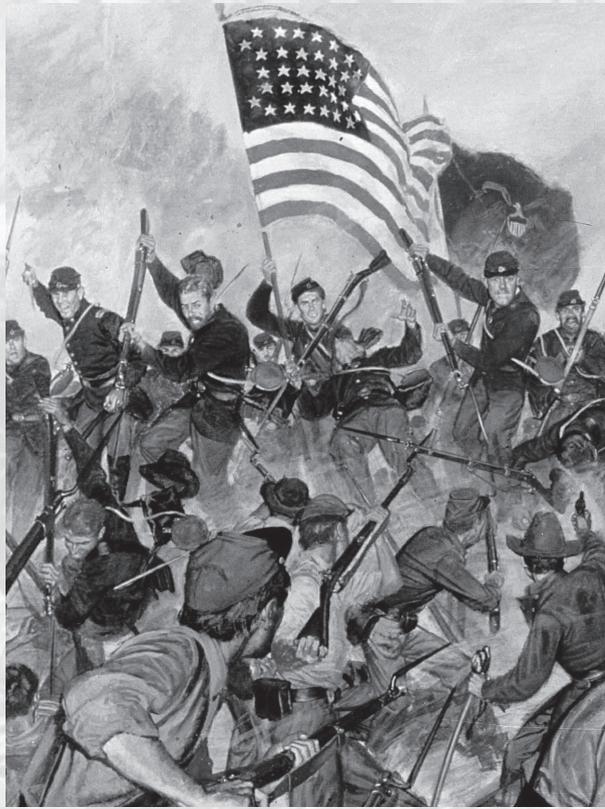
## SUGGESTIONS

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**



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 then and since 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 your reservation and we may ask you to pay for those no-show dinners. It is better for you to pay than the club should suffer the loss... 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 make every month.



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OF NEW YORK

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