

THE SHARPSHOOTER

THE CIVIL WAR FORUM OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK

December 2011



Cost:

Members: \$40

Non-Members: \$50

Date:

December 14, 2011

Place:

The Roger Smith Hotel,
507 Lexington Ave.,
16th floor "Solarium"

Time:

Dinner at 6 PM,
Doors open 5:30 PM
Cash Bar 5:30–6 PM

*Please call 212-532-1566
by December 9th
to confirm you will be attending.*

Mark Luongo



Speaking on “The Garibaldi Regiment,” Mark Luongo has been a teacher of Advanced Placement History at Port Richmond High School on Staten Island since 1998. An Adjunct Professor at CUNY Kingsborough Community College, Mark received a College Now grant and taught a Civil War course, “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory,” the last two spring semesters.

Mark earned a BA in history from Widener College (1978), an MA from NYU (1991), and an MEd at Wagner College (1998). He is a participant in the annual Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College since 1999 and enjoys re-enacting the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and World War II.

A member of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Roundtable of Central New Jersey since 2006, Mark resides part-time in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I apologize for missing the last two meetings: I have had some health problems just before them which have now been diagnosed as very minor strokes. Still, even “minor” made it too difficult for me to get the 65 miles from Ocean Grove, NJ, to the east side of NYC. I *will* make it to the December meeting, probably using one of my children (young adults) to drive me door to door and be my guest at the meeting.

Our great friend Charlie Schwarz has also had some severe health difficulty. We should all extend whatever aid we can and send our hopes and prayers for Charlie to bounce back in his inimitable style.

But our two cases underscore a bigger point. We need more volunteers! We need younger members who want to get involved to *do* so now. Any transition that might be needed will proceed more easily if the veteran hand can provide a younger volunteer with information and guidance before a crisis might occur. We need older members who want to be involved in running the Forum to do so. Parts of the present leadership are getting a bit frail and younger blood and fresh enthusiasm and new ideas are always important.

The by-laws prevent me from being president next year so we are going to need a new person for that post, too. Start thinking now about who you would like to be our next club president. In short: Volunteer to be an officer of the Forum! Speak to Nancy Newcomb.

Volunteers Needed Now!

Regards for a happy holiday season and new year,

—David Kinard

Speakers 2011

January 18—Jay Jorgensen: “Gettysburg’s Bloody Wheatfield”

February 15—Clark B. Hall: “The Emergence of the Federal Cavalry as an Offensive Force in the Army of the Potomac”

CWFMNY Annual Battlefield Tour

This year’s tour will take place from **May 31–June 3, 2012**, and will survey the battlefields at Manassas, Virginia. During our stay we will be at the Courtyard Manassas Battlefield Park Marriott hotel, 10701 Battleview Pkwy., Manassas, VA 20109. Telephone: (703) 335-1300.

Our tour guides will be Hank Elliot for Manassas 1 and 2; Robert Orrison will guide us around Bristoe Station. Jim Morgan will cover the Ball’s Bluff battle for us.

The bus tour will cost \$725 complete. A \$100 deposit would be greatly appreciated. Final payment will be due by our February 15th meeting. For more information call Howard Rosenthal at 718-591-2950.



President

David M. Kinard

Vice-President—Programs

Jacqueline Eberstein

Vice-President—Operations

Charles K. Schwarz

Secretary

James Santagata

Treasurer

Nancy D. Newcomb

Trustee

(term expiring in 2012)

Phyllis Rosenthal

Paul Windels III

Trustee

(term expiring in 2013)

James W. Davis

Daniel J. Morrison

Graphics

Charles K. Schwarz

Photographer

Nathan Burkan, Jr.

Webmeister

Bob Rowen

Counsel

Paul Windels III

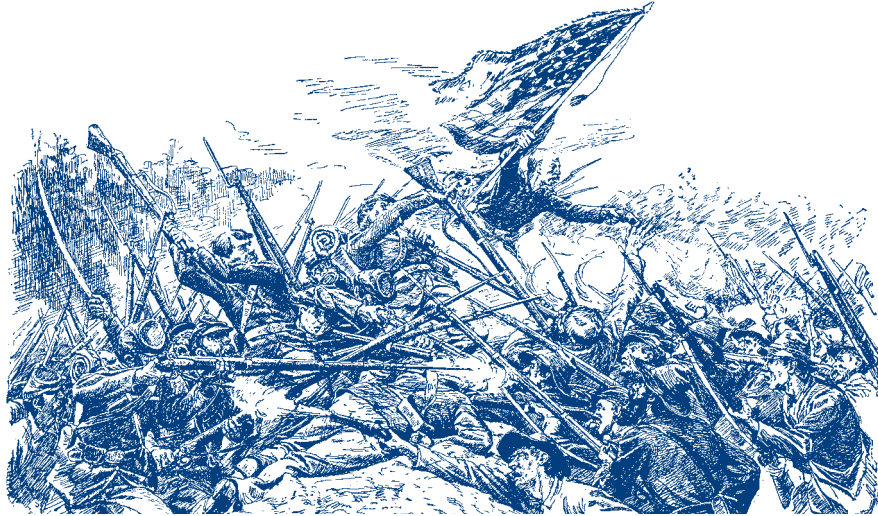
cwfmny.org

The Sesquicentennial Needs More Attention

Despite the best efforts of many good people, the Civil War's Sesquicentennial has yet to increase public appreciation of what that conflict meant to America. Lack of public and private funding in our depressed economy raises the greatest obstacle to an appropriate memorial. Both the National and New York State Civil War Sesquicentennial Committees have websites that publicize sesquicentennial memorials. The national organization, however, does not seem to be arranging events on its own. New York's Committee raised funds last summer through its "Evening with Mark Twain," held a cemetery tour in Albany, and a speech by historian Harold Holzer in Guilderland. We eagerly await their plans for 2012.

Although not a sponsor of specific sesquicentennial events, the Civil War Trust has obtained matching government funds for 2012 sesquicentennial sites Gaines's Mill and Second Bull Run. We cannot overvalue its work to keep the Civil War alive for future generations.

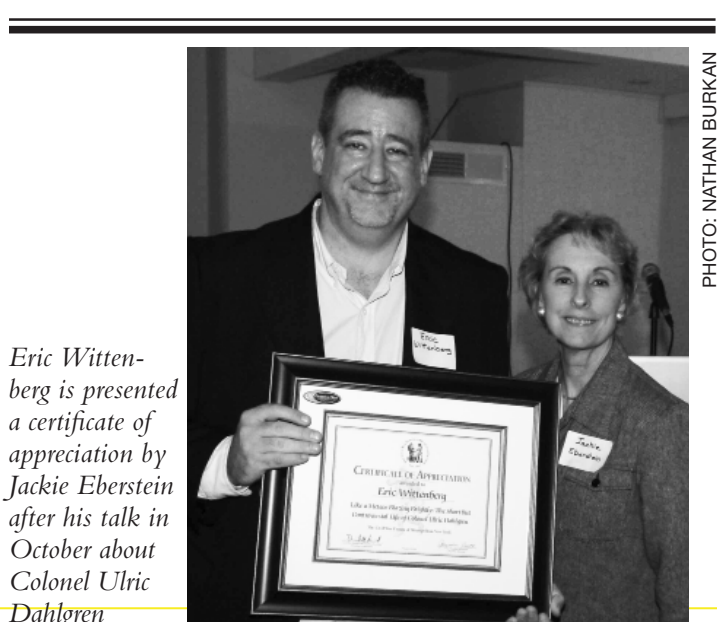
The *New York Times'* blog (www.opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com) offers a notable exception to other-wise sporadic media coverage. Nearly every day, its "DISUNION" blog (authored in part by CWFMY speaker and member Jamie Malinowski) provides informative scholarship and provocative analysis. Recent posts have covered the *Trent* Affair, Sherman's Demons, and Was Freedom Enough? Kudos Jamie and colleagues!



What can we ordinary Civil War buffs do? First, plan and support events linked to a specific 150th anniversary. 2012 is the 150th of Shiloh, Antietam, and the Emancipation Proclamation for starters. Second, speak at schools and civic groups about

what the Civil War means to you and why it is important today. You never know who will take interest. Third, study something and share your analysis with your friends. What I like most about CWFMY is that I learn something about the Civil War whenever I chat with another member.

—Paul Windels III



Eric Wittenberg is presented a certificate of appreciation by Jackie Eberstein after his talk in October about Colonel Ulric Dahlgren

PHOTO: NATHAN BURKAN


Peace on Earth
...a hope for today,
a wish for the ages

Season's Greetings
 2011 THE CIVIL WAR FORUM OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK 2012


THE LIBRARY

by Nathan Burkan

A World On Fire, An Epic History of Two Nations Divided, by Amanda Foreman

This remarkable 1,000-page book details in highly readable form the history of the foreign relations between Great Britain and the United States during the Civil War. Foreman provides the reader with a “fly on the wall” view of the various cabinet and other meetings of the two governments, and the Confederacy. This is not the typical dry and boring book about diplomacy. The reader gets to know Secretary of State Seward, Lord Lyons, the British Minister to the US, Prime Minister Lord Palmerston and Foreign Secretary Lord Russell.

The book contains hundreds of extracts from the personal letters, diaries, and journals of individuals and soldiers including many British subjects who fought for the North and the South. It contains many satirical and funny *Punch* cartoons and the superb battlefield illustrations of Frank Vizetelly, a British artist.

The most significant topics explore the impact of



the Emancipation Proclamation and various crises that occurred: Great Britain’s consideration of recognition of the Confederacy, the *Trent* incident, and the matter of British shipyards building Confederate warships. The *Trent* affair consisted of the illegal boarding of a British mail ship by a U.S. warship and the seizure and imprisonment of two Confederate envoys to Great Britain that almost resulted in war. It was every bit as close as the more-recent Cuban Missile Crises.

These crises were overcome by the good sense and realism of the parties, on the Union side notwithstanding the previous bellicose, bullying and undiplomatic behavior of Secretary Seward, who had on various occasions threatened Great Britain with War.

Britain also toned down its language in dispatches, easing the way for the U.S. to reverse its seizure of the confederates. The envoys were released in spite of U.S. public opinion, for if war with Great Britain had occurred, the North would have lost the Civil War.

The Emancipation Proclamation ended the possibility of any British or French recognition of the Confederacy, as both countries were opposed to slavery.



THE SHARPSHOOTER

23-23 23rd Street NY, NY 11105