

THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 63, No. 3

574th Meeting

November 2013



• Guest:
Lieutenant Colonel David R. Siry
Civil War Memory and Memorialization at West Point

• Cost:
Members: \$40
Non-Members: \$50

• Date:
Wednesday, November 13th

• 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 November 6th, if you plan to attend the November meeting.

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

West Point Night Lieutenant Colonel David R. Siry

Our November guest is currently an assistant professor of military history at the United States Military Academy.

Lt. Col. Siry graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from USMA in 1994 and entered the Armor Branch of the U.S. Army. He served in operational assignments around the world: Iraq, Kuwait, Bosnia, Haiti, Fort Campbell, Kentucky and Fort Knox, Kentucky. On his two most recent deployments, he served as an Operations Officer and Executive Officer of a Cavalry Squadron in the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division, and as a Team Chief on a Military Transition team working with the Iraqi Army, Air Force and Police in Wasit Province, with the 1st Cavalry Division

Lt. Col. Siry earned a Master's Degree from the Pennsylvania State University in 2003. His speciality is the American Civil War and he has led numerous staff rides for cadets and soldiers at Gettysburg, Antietam, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga and Chattanooga.



Who Am I?

I spent my early life in Warsaw. Warsaw, Illinois, that is, a doctor's son who brushed up against runaway slaves and the local murder of Mormonism's founder, Joseph Smith in 1844. At Brown University, I wrote poems, joined a fraternity, sampled Herodotus and hashish. Later on, I worked with some important people.

From the *N.Y. Times*, May 19, 2013

Answer on page 4

Dress Code

We would appreciate it if our men members would wear a regular shirt instead of a polo or tee shirt. And no shorts, please. No one needs a jacket or a tie but it looks better if we all are dressed a little more neatly. Also, please, no blue jeans.

Thanks,
The Management.

2013 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2013

• **December 11th** •
Pat Schroeder
*Duryee's Fifth
New York Zouaves*

• **January 11th** •
Timothy Sedore
*Virginia's Confederate
Monuments*

• **February 13th** •
Lincoln Barondess Award

President's Message

Oh Chattanooga! Once besieged, but now stirring with Union hope! Imagine the Confederates looking down from the palisades of Lookout Mountain and the heights of Missionary Ridge. How could they not feel confident that they still had the upper hand over the Federals? What difference would it make who was in command of the defeated army below them? How could any Union commander remove them from the safety of those lofty, impregnable fortifications? But all was to change because of Ulysses S. Grant!

For those of you who saw and heard Robert E. Lee Krick last month—what can I say but “FANTASTIC!” In less than an hour, Bobby Krick enlightened and entertained our members and guests with new details and personal descriptions that we’ll use whenever we again talk about the Seven Days Campaign. It was the kind of Round Table meeting that makes you feel so satisfied and fulfilled knowing that you’ve spent your time well.

Where else can you see and hear and meet, in person, such a passionate, knowledgeable expert who you know has walked the battlefields and can bring them to life for his eager listeners? Our thanks and appreciation go out to both Harold Holzer and Bobby Krick for helping us to start this year with a BANG! We won’t be forgetting their powerful presentations any time soon.

Well—where do we go from here? That’s easy—onward and upward to “*WEST POINT NIGHT.*”

This November West Point graduate, class of '94, Lt. Col. David R. Siry will be our honored guest speaker. This night has truly become a Civil War Round Table of New York “TRADITION.” Make sure to call in your reservations seven days in advance to save your place! And why not invite your friend or neighbor, your colleague from work, even a family member? Let’s all listen, learn and honor West Point, our speaker, and all our servicemen and servicewomen past and present. As they say at West Point reverently: “Duty, Honor, Country.”

Please call 718-341-9811 now to reserve your place. See you November 13th. We start at 1800 hours sharp!

— *Marty Smith*

PS: One last reminder— A notice went out many years ago which read: “DUSE ARE DUE.” (And for those of you who have not yet paid them...so are your Membership Renewal Dues!) Thanks for taking care of this “obligation” this month.

Numismatics

Perhaps the coins with the saddest tales are the cent and half-dollar of the Confederate States of America.

The cent stayed buried in a Philadelphia basement for years and only became known by accident. In 1861, Robert Lovett Jr. was approached about making dies for a Confederate cent. He agreed, produced the dies, and then minted 12 coins. Fearing that the United States government would arrest him for treason and giving aid to the enemy, he buried the dies and the cents in his basement.

But he only buried 11 coins; the 12th had disappeared. Lovett kept quiet long after the war, but that 12th telltale cent found its way to a West Philadelphia bar where the bartender offered it for sale. The bartender eventually sold the coin to Capt. John W. Haseltine, who thought he recognized the die work as that of Lovett.

Although Lovett denied ever having worked on the coin or even knowing anything about it, he confessed to Haseltine and showed the dies and the 11 remaining coins, made of a nickel-copper alloy. Haseltine bought the dies and produced 7 gold cents, 12 silver, and 55 copper coins, before the dies broke on the last copper cent.

The half-dollar has an even sadder story. Its existence was unknown until 1879. The half-dollar began in early 1861, after Louisiana handed over the United States Mint in New Orleans and its confined mint officers to the Confederate States of America.

Continued on page 4

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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.

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November during the Civil War

1861

2 – The very first nominee of the Republican Party, John C. Frémont, ends his military career. He proves to be a much better explorer than general.

8 – The bellicose, contrary, Charles Wilkes, as great an explorer as Frémont (see Wilkes Land in the Antarctic), tries to initiate a war with England all by himself. He takes off Mason and Slidell, Confederate emissaries to London and Paris, from the British mail ship, *Trent*, and starts a scary diplomatic incident.

1862

7 – The chesty George B. McClellan, in a moment of modesty (not) prays for his country. He will not be around to save it as he has been given the boot. But cheer up, things could be worse. And his replacement is worse.

8 – And when it comes to worse, Benjamin (Beast) Butler is replaced by N.B. Banks. Both are short-listed as the worst general in the entire conflict.

1863

19 – In his most memorable, and no doubt, his shortest, speech, Lincoln says at Gettysburg that, “the world will little note nor long remember what we say here.”

30 – Battling Braxton Bragg throws in the towel and asks to be relieved. Many Confederates are relieved, too.

1864

16 – William T. Sherman and his Bummers leave a desolate and angry Atlanta and head for a leisurely tour of the countryside, listening hard to hear Georgia howl.

25 – On the National holiday of Evacuation Day, Confederates infiltrate New York City and try to burn it down. Robert Cobb Kennedy, the only Confederate caught, is hanged for his troubles at Fort Lafayette, off Fort Hamilton, in the town of New Utrecht (it didn't become Brooklyn until 1894).

All items and quotes in this column are from *The Civil War Day by Day* edited by E.B.Long.

Dues are due

If you haven't already paid your dues, please send your checks in now. After October, the price rises to \$50. 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
First Category	\$40	\$60
Second Category	\$50	\$75
Third Category	\$100	\$150

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.

Out-of-towners (75 miles or more) and students (full or part time and under 25) pay \$15.00 unless you are covered by your parent's payment. If you joined up between January and March 2013, you owe only \$15.00. If you joined up in April, May, or June, you get a freebie.

Send dues to Treasurer Bud Livingston
71-16 66th Street, Glendale, NY 11385

Do not include your dues and dinner payment on the same check.

Communism in Dixie

One of the ablest citizens of Louisiana put forth his views through the *South Carolinian* - the organ of the present state governor of South Carolina - on the proper policy for the rebel government to adopt in this crisis. His scheme is altogether a nice one. “The war,” he says, “can no longer be conducted as it has been. Our currency is so depressed that it will soon cease to be available. I see but one remedy. Let no more paper money be issued. Let the whole Confederacy be divided into two classes - the combatants, and the producers. As long as this war shall last, every one of us must be satisfied with shelter, food, clothing, and nothing else. The soldiers and officers, from the highest to the lowest must fight without pay. Why should they need money, when provided with necessaries, and their families taken care of? Let all the resources and productions of every farmer or planter be put at the disposal of the government without pay. Let every woman and every child old enough for the purpose, be made to work without pay. Let the president and every civil officer or employee have no pay. In fact, let it be a penal offense to buy or sell anything, but let food, raiment, shelter, and medicine be secured to every one under a parish or county organization, controlled or supervised by the general government.”

[Obviously this never happened, but Joe Stalin would have smiled at the idea.]

From *The New York Times Complete Civil War* edited by Harold Holzer and Craig Symonds

Continued from page 2

New designs for a half-dollar were submitted to the Confederate Secretary of the Treasury who chose one dollar with a Goddess of Liberty and 13 stars for the original colonies on the obverse. On the reverse is the new design - a shield with 7 stars denoting the 7 seceding states. Above the shield is a Liberty cap and surrounding the shield are stalks of cotton and sugar cane. The motto "Confederate States of America" and the denomination "Half-Dol" run along the outside of the reverse. In 1879 Dr. B.F. Taylor, the chief coiner of the Confederacy, sold the first four coins to J.W. Scott and Company, dealers in stamps and coins. The American Numismatic Society (156th Street and Broadway) held an exhibit of these coins.

by Jed Stevenson *N.Y. Times*, April 9, 1989

NEW | NEW | NEW | NEW

**We are emailing the Dispatch. If you want it sent via email, please let the editor know:
EABudlivingston@gmail.com.**

NEW Recruits

Meki Tate from the Daughters of Union Veterans

Answer from Page I

John Hay



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