

THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 69, No. 3

634th Meeting

November 2019



- Guest:
Lawrence Korczyk
- Cost:
Members: \$60
Non-Members: \$75
- 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.

This is the second...

Lawrence Korczyk

Lawrence Korczyk has degrees in Economics and Business Administration, but his real love is American History. After a 30-year career in business, he and his wife Lori moved to Gettysburg to pursue his avid interest in Civil War history. He was a reenactor with the 2nd Rhode Island Infantry, a member of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table and chairman of the James I. Robertson Jr. Literary Prize for Confederate History. He studied for and passed the exam to become a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park and was recently elected VP of the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides. He has this to say about his current book:

“People love lists! We all perhaps remember that famous segment during the David Letterman show where he would list the “Top Ten” on a specific subject. These segments are the inspiration for our book on the Battle of Gettysburg, titled *Top Ten at Gettysburg*, in which seven authors/historians on the battle each put together a list of five subjects, each comprising ten elements of the list. It was a fascinating project to work on and provides a concise history of the battle from a unique perspective. The talk will involve the origins of our book and many interesting vignettes on the greatest battle ever to take place on the North American continent.”

This is the second in the **Bud Livingston Lecture Series**.

Top Ten at Gettysburg is an informative book that will appeal to all students of the Civil War’s most studied battle. It is much more than just a listing of officer casualties or units with the heaviest losses. All entries are fully explained, and some of the topics are truly fascinating such as color bearers, civilian accounts, Medal of Honor winners, and unique cannons and monuments on the field. The authors also include their favorite books, battle images, memorable quotations on the battle, out of the way monuments and key places to visit. They even present good and bad command decisions, and enduring controversies (Were the Confederates really looking for shoes in Gettysburg? Did Lincoln really write the Gettysburg address on an envelope?). Anyone, no matter what their knowledge of the battle, will enjoy and learn from this book.” Dr. David Martin

Co-author of *Regimental Strengths and Losses at Gettysburg*
Author of *Gettysburg July 1*



2019 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2020

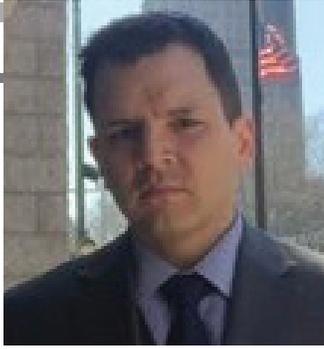
• December •
No Meeting

• **Wednesday January 8** •
TBD

• **Wednesday February 12** •
Barondess-Lincoln Award

President's Message

Our Round Table just concluded its 62nd Annual Battlefield Tour, which took place the last weekend of October. We were taken on an extraordinary tour of the Battlefields of South Mountain, Harpers Ferry, Antietam, and Shepherdstown by our expert guide, Dennis Frye. Although we had some rain during our Sunday morning visit to the Antietam National Cemetery, the weather for the rest of our tour was excellent and we were able to avoid significant traffic on our return to New York.



Our speaker for this month, Lawrence Korczyk, is an expert on the Gettysburg Battlefield. After a 30-year career in business, he and his wife Lori moved to Gettysburg and he is now a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park. He was also a member of the Robert E. Lee Round Table, who are our friends in New Jersey. Korczyk's presentation will be about a book he worked on titled "Top Ten at Gettysburg", in which seven authors/historians each put together a list of five subjects, each comprising ten elements of the list.

Most of you have been to both of the battlefields at Antietam and Gettysburg and realize the work that the American Battlefield Trust has done in order to preserve the hallowed ground where so many of our fellow Americans gave their last full measure of devotion. I was constantly reminded during our tour in Antietam of the value of their preservation efforts. Additionally, their website battlefield.org is an amazing source of information which has almost everything you want to know about a particular battlefield from meticulously crafted maps to photographs and news articles. If you are not a member of the American Battlefield Trust, I would encourage you to donate and become a member.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

KRIS KASNICKI

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Please Send in Your Membership Dues!

MEMBERSHIP DUES CATEGORIES:

Basic Membership: Single \$100; Family \$120

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*Any dues paid in excess of Basic Membership are considered contributions and are TAX DEDUCTIBLE

[Link to Membership Application \(.pdf\)](#)

[Link to President and Dues Letter \(.pdf\)](#)

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 BATTLE OF BELMONT

November 7, 1861

Grant's first assignment as colonel of the 21st Illinois had been to attack the camp of the rebel regiment in Missouri. Grant had proved his personal courage as a junior officer in the Mexican War. But now he was in command; he was responsible. As his men approached the enemy camp, Grant recalled, "my heart kept getting higher and higher until it felt to me as though it were in my throat. I would have given anything then to have been back in Illinois, but I had not the moral courage to know what to do; I kept right on". It turned out that the Missouri regiment, learning of the Yankee approach, had decamped. Grant suddenly realized that the colonel "had been as much afraid of me as I had been of him. This was a view of the question I had never taken before; but it was one I never forgot. ... The lesson was valuable." It was a lesson that McClellan and many other Union commanders, especially in the East, never learned.

A few months after this incident, Grant had taken five regiments from Cairo down the Mississippi to create a diversion in aid of another Union operation in Missouri by attacking a Confederate camp at Belmont, across the river from the southern Gibraltar at Columbus. On November 7, Grant's troops routed a rebel force of equal size but were in turn counterattacked and surrounded by reinforcements from Columbus. Some of Grant's officers panicked and advised surrender; Grant



merely said that "we had cut our way in and could cut our way out just as well". So they did, and returned to their transports – not without loss, but having inflicted greater losses on the enemy. Although the battle of Belmont accomplished little in the larger scheme of war and could hardly be called a Union victory, it taught Grant more valuable lessons and demonstrated his coolness under pressure. Lincoln did not know it yet, but here was the general he had been looking for these past six months.

Battle Cry of Freedom by James McPherson

Civil War Events During the Month of November 1861

- | | | | |
|------------|--|--------------|--|
| November 1 | George McClellan replaces Lieutenant General Winfield Scott as general-in-chief of the U.S. Army | November 8/9 | Engagement at Ivy Mountain, Kentucky telegraph line |
| November 2 | General John C. Fremont removed from command of the Department of the West by President Lincoln | November 12 | The blockade runner Fingal, bought by Confederates in England, arrives in Savannah |
| November 7 | Engagement at Belmont, Missouri | November 22 | November 21 - Judah P. Benjamin confirmed as Confederate Secretary of War. Benjamin had been serving as Jefferson Davis's Acting Secretary of War since September 17 |
| November 8 | The Confederate emissaries to England and France are removed from the British vessel RMS <i>Trent</i> , initiating the "Trent Affair" and endangering the United States' relationship with Great Britain | November 28 | Missouri admitted to the Confederacy despite never officially seceding from the Union |

Question of the month:

What was the difference between Union and Confederate directional bugle calls?

SUGGESTIONS

The Dispatch welcomes articles, book reviews (non-fiction only) and suggestions. Just send them in to our mailing address.



On October 25, 2019, CWRT tour members left New York for rural Maryland to revisit and relive the Battle of Antietam.

Answer:

Practically none: they were identical.

Civil War Trivia and Fact Book by Webb Garrison

In Memoriam

It is with sorrow that we announce the death of historian James I. "Bud" Robertson. He was a great friend of the Round Table. He came to speak to us many times, was given two Fletcher Pratt awards and the Bell I. Wiley Award for advancement of Civil War understanding, and had the Children's Book Award named for him. He died on November 2nd at the age of 89, and will be much missed by the Civil War community.

