

## Issue 9: January 2021

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### OUR JANUARY MEETING – 1/19/2021

“BURN THE TOWN AND SACK THE BANKS:

THE CONFEDERATE RAID ON ST. ALBANS, VERMONT”

**Darryl Sannes\*\***

Late in 1864 the Confederate States of America devised a plan to bring "Total War" to the North and obtain some revenge for what was happening in the South. This almost stranger-than-fiction story accounts for the planning and people involved in all of the aspects of this episode of the American Civil War.

Darryl Sannes has been studying the American Civil War most of his adult life, including 11 trips to Gettysburg. He co-authored the three-book set, ***Patriots of Brooklyn: The stories of the men from Brooklyn Township, who served in the Civil War***. During the Sesquicentennial, 2011 through 2015, Sannes served on the Minnesota Civil War Commemoration Task Force. Darryl is a long-time member of the Twin Cities Civil War Round Table, is a past-President and currently serves on the Board.

**Link to the Zoom Meeting will be emailed to you by Carol.**

**\*\* Please note: this presentation replaces John Haymond’s “The Infamous Dakota War Trials of 1862: Revenge, Military Law, and the Judgment of History.” Why? Because we knew that many of you have been really looking forward to attending Haymond’s presentation, which originally was scheduled for last winter when the pandemic started. We figure that he still wouldn’t be able to come this January, so we’ve rescheduled his presentation for May 2021, in the hopes we can all attend in person (if you choose).**



*First Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg*

## **2020-2021 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

### **February 16, 2021 - John Fazio:**

“Decapitating the Union: Jefferson Davis, Judah Benjamin and the Plot to Assassinate Lincoln”

### **March 16, 2021 – Leslie Goddard:**

“Gone With The Wind and the Constuction of Civil War Memory”

### **May 18, 2021 – John Haymond:**

“The Infamous Dakota War Trails of 1862: Revenge, Military Law, and the Judgment of History.”

## **THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY – JANUARY**

1 <sup>st</sup>	1863 – President Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation
9 <sup>th</sup>	1861 – Mississippi secedes from the Union
10 <sup>th</sup>	1861 – Florida secedes from the Union
11 <sup>th</sup>	1861 – Alabama secedes from the Union
15 <sup>th</sup>	1865 – Fall of Fort Fisher, North Carolina
19 <sup>th</sup>	1861 – Georgia secedes from the Union
19 <sup>th</sup>	1862 – Battle of Mill Spring, Kentucky
26 <sup>th</sup>	1861 – Louisiana secedes from the Union
28 <sup>th</sup>	1864 – Operations around New Bern, North Carolina
30 <sup>th</sup>	1862 – USS Monitor launched at Greenpoint, Long Island, New York
31 <sup>st</sup>	1865 – U.S. House of Representatives passes the 13 <sup>th</sup> Amendment ending slavery

## **CIVIL WAR BIRTHDAYS – JANUARY**

8 <sup>th</sup>	1821 – Gen. James Longstreet C.S.
15 <sup>th</sup>	1821 – Gen. Lafayette McLaws C.S.
16 <sup>th</sup>	1825 – Gen. George Pickett C.S.
16 <sup>th</sup>	1815 – Gen. Henry Halleck U.S.
19 <sup>th</sup>	1807 – Gen Robert E. Lee C.S.

## From the Dusty Collection

### Corps Badges, Old and New

Our recent Round Table presentation on General George Thomas and his Army of the Cumberland prompted a dig through the collection and then this month’s article. One of the holy grails for Civil War collectors to find is a unique, inscribed corps badge. First authorized in 1863, badges were to be made of die cut wool in red (1<sup>st</sup> Division), white (2<sup>nd</sup> Division) or blue (3<sup>rd</sup> Division.) First Minnesota officers probably handed out white cloth badges to the boys shortly before their march to Gettysburg.

Innovative soldiers and enterprising merchants soon added a myriad of materials and styles ranging from factory made stamped or enameled metal to hand engraved gold or silver badges. Over many years of looking, I’ve found only a half dozen. And unfortunately, corps badges have been faked by the unscrupulous for many years.

This silver one from the jewelry case in a Bloomington, Illinois antique shop took some research. I knew it was Civil War period from the simple “T pin” on back of a hand engraved former half dollar. Those symbols certainly looked familiar, but why the three intertwined?



A little research put a smile on my face: the Fourth Corps (triangle), the Fourteenth Corps (acorn) and the Twentieth Corps (star) formed the Army of the Cumberland created in 1862. Its badge was not officially authorized until June 6, 1865 and so hand engraved badges from this organization are exceedingly scarce. This 1865 example is both unique and attractive.

As a long-time member of the recreated First Minnesota reenactment group, I had always wanted such a badge, but could never find a craftsman to make one...until last year.

## Replicating a First Minnesota Corps Badge – in Istanbul

Many years ago, I traded for the original silver corps badge and reunion ribbons worn by Chester



Durfee of Company K from Winona. Probably made from a half dollar and engraved with name, company and regiment, the badge featured a hand filed scalloped decoration around the rim. This Second Corps badge is pictured in Wayne Jorgenson’s wonderful book on the men of the First Minnesota: Every Man Did His Duty. I’d always dreamed of wearing a copy of Durfee’s badge.

[For an excellent recently published account of Chester Durfee’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary 1913 trip to Gettysburg, see:

<https://emergingcivilwar.com/2020/03/25/traveling-to-gettysburg-pt-1/> ]

In reading through Rick Steve’s guide book prior to a trip to Istanbul, I learned of a “Han” of silversmiths in one corner of the immense 500-year-old Grand Bazaar. Hans were two story complexes of small shops around a small courtyard. Armed with photocopies of my badge, written instructions on my name and reenactment company, and an original 1850s New Orleans mint half dollar I had grand visions. Most silver corps badges were made from readily available coins. Fortunately, I had recently bought a few of these old coins, each with a hole so priced at not much above the silver value.

We left our hotel the evening we arrived and headed north toward the Bazaar guided by a pocket compass. Immediately we were in a district of shoe shops and shoe makers, the streets crowded with push carts, vendors unpacking crates of shoes and burly guys carrying shoulders full of hides...of course I was thinking of replica Civil War boots for the next trip!



We skirted the packed interior of the Grand Bazaar and found the Silver Han in a rabbit warren of narrow lanes and tiny shops. The old stone steps to the dark second floor were deeply rutted from centuries of wear. No tourists were in sight. Most of the workshops were closed, but one tiny shop, door open, had an older guy working on rings at his wooden bench. He spoke no English and I no Turkish, but sign language, pictures, and the old silver half dollar piqued his interest.

Meanwhile Wendy was wondering what I had gotten her into in this alternative universe of dark passageways and tea drinking, cigarette smoking men - all of them incredulous that Americans, and especially a woman, were visiting their workspaces.

In fact, we encountered only a handful of other Americans during four days in Istanbul. Despite a “Category 3” State Department warning about Turkey, the old city was vibrant, crowded, always friendly, and perfectly safe in our opinion.

The ring craftsman started babbling Turkish and gesturing, then locked up his workshop and led us down the steps, through more narrow passageways, and finally to a tiny shop. The shop master, who also spoke no English, specialized in laser engraving jewelry. Perfect! So I thanked our helpful guide and stepped inside the hot, smoke filled shop.



Several guys were crammed into the space so small that Wendy had to wait outside. Various helpers and delivery boys were constantly coming and going. And fortunately, the main apprentice spoke a little English. With his translation and our pictures, we came to terms at a price within my estimate and budget. I felt no need to try to negotiate even though it is always expected in purchases of Bazaar goods. Custom work would be different I assumed.

But then the deal was soon off because they didn't think they could get the badge done by our departure in three days and had no way to ship it.

But then the deal was back on. They remembered a friend who could *probably* ship the badge.

So, I trustingly paid them US cash, left the antique half dollar, and trudged back through Istanbul's ancient winding streets hoping to find our hotel.

We heard the plaintive call to prayer from multiple mosques as we made it back at dusk. Mission accomplished but fingers crossed. Would I see my badge, my money, or my half dollar ever again?

On Sunday night I got a WhatsApp message from the apprentice: the badge might be done by late Monday afternoon. So back up to the Han after threading our way through the even more crowded streets around the Bazaar. The master solemnly handed me back only the shell of my silver half dollar, now with a large cloverleaf cutout. He smiled, hoping to shock me. Funny guy.

Then he smiled and out came the new badge. While not precisely the same as the original, it would *certainly do!* They promptly got an order for a second badge, this one named to Wayne Jorgenson. It arrived some weeks later and led to some fun as I told Wayne I had just discovered a unique First Minnesota corps badge he could add to his collection!



### **TCCWRT MEMBER MARJORIE BINGHAM HAS DIED**

TCCWRT member Marjorie Bingham passed away on December 24, 2020. Marjorie and her husband Thomas Egan have been active members of the Round Table since 1994.

### **JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP!**

Are you on Facebook? If so, please consider joining our Civil War Round Table - Twin Cities Group. On our Group page you will find posts shared from some of the best Civil War history organizations in the county including the American Battlefield Trust, Civil War Chronicles and Emerging Civil War. As a group member you can post and share any Civil War related items (photos, stories, questions) you wish. If you are already on Facebook, make sure you the search for our group and ask to be a member.

**CONTACT US:**

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**Can you contribute to a future newsletter? Writers are wanted to submit Civil War related articles to this newsletter.**

**Please submit your drafts to Bruce Cooper: [earlofbuce@hotmail.com](mailto:earlofbuce@hotmail.com)**