

Sept 2001 - May 2002

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

September 2001

Round Table Business

As summer passes the time has come for us to welcome all members back for the coming campaign. This September we will begin our fifth season and we can start with good news for all. The First Defenders Civil War Round Table will return home to The Inn at Moselem Springs for our September meeting and all meetings in the coming year. In addition the practice of offering three meal selections will continue and the dinner price will remain at \$15.00.

A Treasure's report was presented to our Board of Directors at a July 25 meeting of the Board. This report showed our Round Table with a total funds balance of \$4,208.31. This balance represents a General Fund of \$3,291.31 and our Preservation Funds balance of \$917.00. At our September meeting we will introduce a proposal that may help us add money to increase our Preservation Fund. Acceptance of the proposal is up to the membership. If anyone has an idea to assist in raising Preservation dollars please bring it up at a meeting.

It is now time for membership renewal's; members renewing are requested to pay their annual dues for this year by the October meeting. This will allow new members to be contacted to fill any openings and they can join early enough to get full benefit from their dues. Please refer to the attachment to this newsletter regarding your renewal.

A slate of officers for the 2001-2002 year was prepared and will be submitted to the membership for review. Additional names for officers may be submitted from the floor. The slate to be submitted is as follows: President, Dave Valuska; Vice President, Mike Gabriel; Recording Secretary / Preservation Chair, Tom Tate; Membership Secretary, Pat Christ; Treasure, Arlan Christ; Solicitor, Bob Grim; Member-at-large, Ron Rhein; Newsletter Editor, Tony Reilly.

While we started our business section with good news we must close on a sad note. One of our charter members, Wilbur Garlin, passed away in late June, he had been in poor health for some time. He will be missed by friends and members.

Book Raffle / Preservation

The sale of raffle tickets continues to be our main source of Preservation money. Your continued support in this new campaign will, as always, be greatly appreciated. Bob Grim donated a box of books that will form a good part of this seasons raffle prizes.

Tom Tate has advised the newsletter that members Rich and Cathy Kennedy have created a design for the proposed banner for our Round Table. The banner, discussed at the May meeting, would be patterned after Civil War Regimental battle flags. The banner would record those places and organizations where the Round Table has made contributions toward preservation. A sketch of the banner will be distributed to the tables at our September meeting for members review and comment. The banner will be four feet by eight feet, trimmed in burgundy with a blue field and our Round Table logo.

Mike Gabriel announced we have received a Keith Rocco print for our \$165.00 donation to Civil War Trust. The print will be displayed at the September meeting and raffled off at a later meeting.

Field Trip Review

On Saturday, June 23, our tour bus picked us up at locations in Kutztown and Reading and we headed south to Richmond, Virginia. Our first thoughts on leaving the pick up area had to be our concerns for the overcast weather conditions we faced, for it looked like we would get very wet on this trip. While we had periods of rain on the way south, fortune smiled on us in the Richmond area and we enjoyed favorable weather for our tours of the Seven Days Battlefields on both Saturday and Sunday.

Our tour began at the Richmond National Battlefield Park, the previous site of the Tredegar Iron Works. Following a self-guided tour of the Iron Works we met our guide, Randy Cleaver, a park historian who gave us a brief history of the Iron Works and its important contributions to the Confederacy during the Civil War. At this point we headed out the Mechanicsville Road to the site of the battles at Mechanicsville and Gaines's Mill. These fights centered on the locations of Beaver Dam Creek, fought on June 26, and Boatswains Creek, fought on June 27. Having a good look at each of these battlefield sites it was easy to understand the difficulty faced by the attacking Confederate forces. This ended our Saturday tour and we went to our hotel. We concluded our events of the day with a dinner buffet, a presentation of a \$500.00 gift to the Richmond Battlefield Association, and a program of questions and answers regarding the Peninsula Campaign, highlighted by a Round Table discussion on these two issues. Should General McClellan have continued the attacks on Richmond after the Seven Days Battles and what was wrong with the Army of the Potomac during the Peninsula Campaign. These two points were designed to encourage general discussion and a fine debate took place with many tour members providing worthwhile comments regarding the questions. Randy Cleaver also joined in the discussion with personal insight on the issues.

On Sunday morning our tour stops were Savage's Station, this battlefield much disrupted by I-295, was fought on June 29. Glendale or Frayser's Farm fought on June 30 was our next stop. Soldiers remembered the fighting at this location for its savagery. "No more desperate encounter took place in the war," wrote Confederate E.P. Alexander, "and nowhere else, to my knowledge, so much actual personal fighting with bayonet and butt of gun." Our final stop on the tour was Malvern Hill, fought on July 1, it was the last of the Seven Days Battles. This is a beautiful site worth seeing by all, the field is very close to the day the battle was fought. Much more could be reviewed regarding each of these fights, but time and space in the newsletter is a consideration. Our tour was ably guided and interpreted by Mr. Cleaver, he did a fine job. The Round Table owes a debt of thanks to all those whose efforts made this an enjoyable weekend.

Having concluded our review of our June field trip we must bring to the attention of the membership an issue of concern regarding our field trips. The officers of the Round Table have concerns regarding the number of members interested in our summer tour. Discussions will be held regarding future tours as to length of tour, locations and time of year. This review should take place as early as we can fit it into a meeting. Scheduling and setting up a tour takes a good bit of time and effort. Your input in this matter is important, and will be appreciated.

Program Review

At the final meeting of last year's campaign, our May meeting, attended by 71 members and guest, our guest speaker was none other than Major General Winfield Scott Hancock. General Hancock, ably portrayed and impersonated by Mr. Bruce Stocking, a historian for the W.S.Hancock Society. Mr.Stocking's presentation was an in-costume program titled, "An Evening with General Hancock." Since Mr.Stocking spoke in the first person, as General Hancock, we will assume the review of our program represent the words and views of General Hancock. The General's opening comments were of his hometown, Norristown, Pa., where his parents Benjamin and Elizabeth still live. The General then went on to speak of some of his views prior to and during the Battle of Gettysburg. The Army was well depressed after the defeat at Chancellorsville and many of my fellow officers unhappy with the command decisions of General Hooker. Darius Couch left command of the 2nd. Corps, disdainful of Hooker with no desire to continue to serve under him. I was given command of the 2nd. Corps, and when in May-June 1863 was one of four Generals offered command of The Army of the Potomac I refused because of my wife Elmira's concern at the offer and my political views as a conservative democrat.

As General Meade took command of the army I went to see him to offer my congratulations and to review the movements of Lee's army. At this point our orders were to keep our army between Lee's army and Washington. When fighting broke out at Gettysburg General Reynolds was sent there to take command of those elements presently engaged with the Rebel army, upon his death I was directed to Gettysburg to take charge. Arriving on the field at 3:30PM on Cemetery Hill I found the army in retreat. I reviewed the situation with General Howard and we established a line of defense from Culps Hill to Little Round Top. Since Howard was senior to me I presented orders from Meade to take command. I had no problem from General Howard regarding these orders. I did not state we would fight here I felt that decision was up to Meade. At 7PM General Slocum arrived and took command of the army I went to Meade when he arrived and presented our situation, I suggested we stay and fight it out. We got little sleep on the night of July 1, 1863.

On the 2nd of July I returned to command my corps. When General Sickles took his 3rd Corps forward to the area known as the Peach Orchard many asked me "what's going on", I remember my reply, "wait a moment, you will see them tumbling back." The rest of this day we were in very hot action with the enemy. I sent Caldwell and the 1st Division to the left of our line to meet the charge of the Confederate 2nd Corps. We lost General Zook and Colonel Cross in the fighting. That night Meade met with the officers, and I and others recommended we stay and continue to fight it out.

On the third day the action came to the center of our line when the Confederate artillery opened a heavy fire upon our line in the afternoon, we answered their fire with counterbattery and this cannonade lasted for some time until our fire was halted by General Hunt. This caused me great concern as to the effect on our men's morale. While Hunt and I had differed on this issue, there was merit to each of our views. During the Confederate attack on our lines I was wounded while speaking to General Stannard. The wound went eight inches into my groin, but I remained on the field until the battle was over. Before I left the field my last suggestion was for the 6th Corps to launch a counterattack on the enemy. This of course never happened.

Following Gettysburg I was sent to Philadelphia, then home to Norristown. I thought I was going to die, but a Doctor Reed found the bullet in my groin and saved my life. I returned to command the 2nd Corps during the Overland Campaign in 1864. In November of that year General Humphrey replaced me in command of the 2nd Corps. General Hancock's final comment of the evening had to do with Gettysburg when he said "they were three days to remember."

I offer one final comment of my own regarding the General's views. We all, I believe, identify the General as Winfield Scott Hancock. In his words, on those occasions he identified himself, he referred to himself as Winfield Hancock, never using "Scott." For some reason this caught my attention, not sure why, however it was a presentation which I believe we all enjoyed. I'm sure the membership thanks the General for sharing an evening with the Round Table.

2001-2002 Programs

Sept.	Dale Gallon --- Civil War Art (Painting the Civil War)
Oct.	Claire Peachey --- Recovering The Hunley
Nov.	John Hoptak --- 48 th Pa. Vol. Inf. Regt.
Dec.	Xmas Program --- TBA
Jan.	Round Table Open Discussion --- Commanders of the Seven Days Battles Lee, Jackson, Porter, McClellan
Feb.	Rich Kennedy --- The Siege of Petersburg
Mar.	Mike Gabriel & Ron Rhein --- The Emergence of Grant From Belmont to Fort Donelson
Apr.	Pat Falsey --- A.P.Hill
May	Carol Reardon --- Pickett's Charge

Any change to this schedule will be updated as soon as possible.

Did You Know

By early winter of 1861 it became clear to Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase that the Union was out of money, that is gold and silver. In order to meet pressing current expenses and to permit ordinary commercial transactions the government resorted to the issuance of "paper money" as a substitute for gold. Secretary Chase pushed lawmakers hard and the result was the Legal Tender Act passed into law on February 25, 1862. This bill provided for the issuance of \$150,000,000 in "greenbacks", so called because of their color. The greenbacks were legal tender for all debts except import duties and interest on government bonds. This money was actually a note of indebtedness by the government, but it paid no interest, and was backed only by the governments promise to redeem the paper money eventually.

Five months after the first paper money was authorized, the supply was exhausted. Congress passed the second Legal Tender Act on July 11, 1862, increasing the amount in circulation and causing the paper dollar to devalue to .91 cents. While the issuance of paper money was probably necessary, and these acts helped to ease a fiscal crisis the decreased value of a paper dollar caused price increases and brought hardship to many people. In addition the greenbacks had limited importance on war finances since a total worth of only \$450 million were issued by the U.S. Government.

As the war continued paper money reached a low point of .39cents per dollar, by the end of the war, the value increased to .67cents. This probably sounds a bit like the present value of our own one dollar greenback. Well at least the color is still the same. When the war was over, Congress abandoned the use of greenbacks with little opposition from lawmakers. By this time, however, ordinary citizens found the new money convenient so that many of them were unwilling to return to gold and silver coins exclusively. Instead of retiring the greenbacks still in circulation, the U.S.Mint increased the production of paper money in an ever growing volume, and as we are all aware, our present monetary system is well saturated with paper money, or if you prefer "greenbacks."

The 5,597 Union dead during the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-7, 1864, exceeded the combined American battle deaths of both the War of 1812 (2,260) and the Mexican War (1,733), which together lasted nearly five years.

Harvard University lost 202 alumni during the Civil War, of whom 138 died for the Union and 64 for the Confederacy.

September Quiz

- Q.1** One of every four Confederate casualties came from this state. Name the state?
- Q.2** General John Pershing of World War 1 fame, was known as "Black Jack." One of General Sherman's commanders was also known by this nickname. Who was he?
- Q.3** During the Overland Campaign of 1864, The Army of the Potomac continued to move to its left in attempts to flank the Confederate Army. On May 28, 1864 a day long vicious cavalry fight took place between units of both armies. Can you name this battle and the respective cavalry commanders?
- Q.4** Great Britain's neutrality was a serious setback for the Confederacy. It had been their view and hope, in what was called Cotton Diplomacy, that the need for cotton by British mills would lead England to side with the South. But England had a glut of cotton at the time and was beginning to import it from India and other colonies. Beyond that, the North had practiced another kind of diplomacy. What was this diplomacy called?
- Q.5** During the Peninsula Campaign General George B. McClellan established his base of supply at White House Landing on the Pamunkey River. At this location stood a home called the "White House." The house was home to Confederate officer W.H.F. Rooney Lee, son of General Robert E. Lee. The house was the former residence of the wife of a famous well known American. It was at this home where he courted her before they married. Name this woman?

September Meeting

Our September meeting in 2001 will be on September 11. As stated earlier in the newsletter we will meet at the Inn at Moselem Springs, meeting time is 6:30 P.M.. Members planning to attend the meeting should make their reservations and meal selections by, **Thursday September 6th**. *Now this is an important change*, Mike Gabriel will be taking the reservations this year. Therefore, the number you will call for reservations is *a new number*. Effective with this newsletter please call **610-683-4391** or if you prefer e-mail Mike at **gabriel@kutztown.edu** to place orders. If no answer on a telephone call please leave a message on the recorded and speak clearly.

Dinner selections for this meeting include **Quakertown Roast; Baked Manicotti; Baked Haddock**. The meal price continues to be \$15.00. Again we must ask if reservations are made please pay for them even if you cannot attend.

Our opening program for this year is a presentation by Dale Gallon on Civil War Art-Painting the Civil War. Mr. Gallon possesses a combination of artistic talent and dedication in painting the historic record of the Civil War. He is well known for his commitment to accuracy in depicting the scenes of the war. He has demonstrated a great effort in painting the action that took place on the hallowed fields of Gettysburg. This presentation should be an outstanding start to the new year. Plan to attend and help the Round Table kickoff a promising new year.

May Quiz and Answers

Q.1 She was considered a spy extraordinary, serving the Confederacy in many ways. After being banished from Washington for her work against the Union, she went to Richmond, then to England to work on behalf of the South's interest in that country. Returning to Wilmington, North Carolina aboard the blockade runner Condor, fearful of capture when a Federal vessel approached off the coast of North Carolina, she took to a rowboat with two companions and lost her life when heavy seas sent the rowboat to the bottom, close to shore. Name this spy?

A.1 Rose O'Neal Greenhow

Q.2 On Friday night, at Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865, President Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth while attending the presentation of a play. Can you name the play, and the English playwright and actress, who wrote the play and played the leading role?

A.2 The play-"Our American Cousin" The actress- Laura Keane

Q.3 In the eyes of many, she was the most accomplished hostess in wartime Washington. She was the daughter of a member of Lincoln's cabinet whose father would also become The Chief Justice of the United States. She was married to a millionaire from Rhode Island. Can you give her maiden and married names?

A.3 Miss Kate Chase --- Mrs William Sprague IV.

Q.4 The reduction of Island #10 on the Mississippi River in 1862, was credited to Commodore Foote and his flotilla. What army commander was promoted to Major General, as a result of quick thinking and drive? His rising star would soon fizzle!

A.4 Major General John Pope

Q.5 During the war, the Confederacy raised a number of her sons to the rank of full general. Two such were R.E.Lee and Braxton Bragg. Name the remaining to reach this rank?

A.5 Joe Johnston, Albert Sidney Johnston, Samuel Cooper, Pierre G.T. Beauregard

Just to let you know, I did not forget this quiz earlier in the newsletter, in its normal location. I was concerned with space and did not wish to go beyond three pages on both sides. However, my concerns have left me, since I was able to fit it in here at the end of this page. I apologize if this caused any problem, which I hope it has not. Next month I will return to our normal format.

Look forward to seeing all in September.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWNUNIVERSITY

October 2001

Round Table Business

On September 11, 2001, 65 members and guest returned to The Inn at Moselem Springs for the initial meeting of our fifth season. Unfortunately our enthusiasm and interest in our Round Table's opening programs and discussions were greatly tempered by the extraordinary and saddening events of this day. I believe it would be safe to say we all share the frustration, disgust and anger at the horrible attacks we bore witness to on the television in its coverage of these events. Surely our thoughts and prayers go to all who lost their lives, to their families and to all the workers and volunteers who then and now continue to place themselves in harms way in an effort to save as many lives as they can. May God be with them all.

In a small way our Round Table had a casualty in that our speaker for the evening, Dale Gallon, cancelled his appearance due to the days events. We are hopeful of being able to reschedule Mr. Gallon for a future meeting.

The slate of officers for 2001-2002 year was presented to the membership, as there were no nominations presented from the floor the slate was accepted by a floor vote. The slate is again presented here and is as follows: President, Dave Valuska; Vice President, Mike Gabriel; Recording Secretary/Preservation Chair, Tom Tate; Membership Secretary, Pat Christ; Treasure, Arlan Christ; Solicitor, Bob Grim; Member-at-large, Ron Rhein; Newsletter Editor, Tony Reilly.

Membership renewal for the new year got under way as 62 renewals were reported as of 9-10-01. We again emphasize the importance of your renewal by our October meeting deadline. Again this will allow new members to be notified and give them a full year of benefits. Additional information will be forthcoming on this issue.

Because of the disruptive issues of the day some business scheduled for last month hopefully will be covered this coming October meeting, such as the proposal to Improve preservation monies and the Round Table banner design.

Book Raffle/Preservation

No book raffle was held in September out of respect for the tragic loss of life on our meeting day. We did not feel a raffle was appropriate on this day. Tom Tate advises our book inventory is good and we thank Ira Boyer for his donation of, *The War between the Spies*. Tom also indicated that not all Round Tables get involved in contributing to preservation issues, in our short life to date we have been very active.

At this month's meeting we will auction off the print we received from Civil War Trust for our \$165 contribution to them. Bring some money and make a bid.

Program Review

Since Mr. Gallon cancelled his visit we will not be reviewing a program. What passed for a program at our September meeting was a brief review of our June field trip to the Seven Days Battlefields and Jack Gurney's review of a Civil War rifle, bayonet and cartridge box. As always our thanks go to Jack for his efforts.

Did You Know

Foreign affairs during and immediately after the Civil War, did not grip the public's attention, as did domestic issues. This would not be difficult to understand.

However, there were issues of importance that could effect national policy and could not long be ignored. One issue was the French government's desire to establish colonies in the new world. France was not nearly restrained as England in dealing with the American conflict. Emperor Napoleon III was very sympathetic with the cause of the South and would have intervened on behalf of Southern interest had they been able to get Britain to side with them early in the war.

Prior to the Civil War Mexico piled up an \$80 million debt to English, French, and Spanish bankers. When the financiers requested their governments to collect by force these nations dispatched land and naval forces to Mexico in 1861. Mexico came to terms with England and Spain and these two countries withdrew their forces. Napoleon, however, marched his army to Mexico City, proclaimed a new government, and installed a puppet emperor. His choice was an Austrian nobleman, Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian Joseph. To the American government this was an outright violation of the Monroe Doctrine and it created an anguishing dilemma for President Lincoln. He suspected the French in Mexico might invade U.S. territory, but he feared vigorous American protests might push Napoleon's government into a formal alliance with the Confederacy.

To avoid this alliance, the Lincoln government ignored the situation for the time being. When the war ended, the Mexicans bolstered by 3,000 former Union soldiers stepped up their guerilla tactics, causing the French trouble countering these attacks. The U.S. government then dispatched a 50,000 man "army of observation" to patrol the Mexican boarder to dissuade French thoughts of entering U.S. territory. This episode was a significant assertion of the Monroe Doctrine, which many Americans had forgotten existed. Unwilling to risk war with America, Napoleon began to withdraw due to pressure from the American government and the country's willingness to support the Monroe Doctrine.

In 1867 following the French withdrawal, Maximilian was deposed and executed by the Mexicans. It here must be stated that Maximilian behaved and died with quiet dignity. His last words to his executioners were "boys, aim well." He then pointed to his heart, "aim right here." This ended his life and brief reign as Emperor of Mexico.

A few items about President Lincoln. His ancestors came from Norfolk County, England near a town called Hingham. His father's name was Thomas, his mother was Nancy Hanks Lincoln. She died when he was nine years old. He had an older sister, Sarah, and two stepsisters from his father's second marriage. He also had a stepbrother John, his stepsisters' names were Elizabeth and Matilda. He was the first president born beyond the boundaries of the original thirteen states. At age 27 he was licensed to practice law in Illinois courts. He was the first American to have his portrait appear on a United States coin, the Lincoln penny in 1909. Lincoln married Mary Todd on November 4, 1842 and he was nine years older than his wife. He had a bumpy courtship. He said of his marrying, "my getting married is a matter of profound wonder." Lincoln was assassinated on Good Friday 1865, and at his death he left an estate of \$110,294.62. He died on April 15, 1865 at 7:22AM. He is buried in Springfield, Illinois in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

September Quiz and Answers

Q.1 One of every four Confederate casualties came from this state. Name the state.

A.1 North Carolina

Q.2 General John Pershing of World War I fame, was known as "Black Jack." One of General Sherman's commanders was also known by this name. Who was he?

A.2 Major General John A. Logan

Q.3 During the Overland Campaign of 1864, the Army of the Potomac continued to move to its left in attempts to flank the Confederate Army. On May 28, 1864 a day long vicious cavalry fight took place between units of both armies. Can you name this battle and the respective commanders?

A.3 The Battle of Haws Shop--- Major General Philip H. Sheridan, Union and Major General Wade Hampton, Confederate.

Q.4 Great Britain's neutrality was a serious setback for the Confederacy. It had been their view and hope, in what was called Cotton Diplomacy, that the need for cotton by British mills would lead England to side with the South. But England had a glut of cotton at the time and was beginning to import it from India and other colonies. Beyond that, the North had practiced another kind of diplomacy. What was it called?

A.4 Wheat Diplomacy--- It was of greater importance to England than cotton.

Q.5 During the Peninsula Campaign General George B. McClellan established his base of supply at White House Landing on the Pamunkey River. At this location stood a home called the White House. The house was home to Confederate officer W.H.F. Rooney Lee, son of Robert E. Lee. The house was the former residence of the wife of a famous American. He courted her at this home before they married. Name this woman.

A.5 Martha Washington--- Wife of George Washington

October Quiz

Q.1 During the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862, the Confederate Army occupied the steep rise called Marye's Heights that was the focus of repeated Union charges. How many charges were made at Marye's Heights that day by the Union army?

Q.2 The U.S.S. Rhode Island managed to rescue forty-seven men on December 30, 1862 as a famous ship foundered in a storm and went down off Cape Hatteras. Name the ship, and if you can the number of men who died in the sinking?

Q.3 What foreign government's offer of mediation between North and South was officially rejected on February 6, 1863?

Q.4 What state was the last state to join the Confederacy?

Q.5 On April 17, 1863 three regiments of Union cavalry from The Army of the Tennessee began a brilliant, audacious and successful ride and raid that played an important part in U.S. Grant's 1863 Vicksburg campaign. Name the federal officer who commanded this raid and if possible the objective of the raid.

October Meeting

Our October meeting will be on **Tuesday October 9**. The meeting will be at The Inn at Moselem Springs, meeting time is 6:30 PM. Members planning to attend the meeting should make their reservations and meal selections by **Thursday October 4**. Please remember we have a new number to call this year. Please call **610-683-4391** with your reservation request or e-mail Mike Gabriel at gabriel@kutztown.edu to place an order. Please speak clearly when leaving a message on the recorder. Dinner selections include **Ham Steak; Baked Ziti; Baked Haddock**. Meal price is \$15.00. As in the past if you make a reservation, but cannot attend, please pay to save the Round Table this expense. Thank you for your cooperation.

Our October program will be a presentation by Claire Peachey, head conservator for the Underwater Archeology branch of the U.S. Naval Historical Center in Washington, D.C. Peachey's archeological experience spans some 20 years. In addition to being the head conservator at the Naval Center, she was deputy field manager on the *Hunley* recovery project. Her topic will be "The Archeology and Recovery of the *H.L. Hunley*: a Civil War Submarine."

This program could well be the highlight presentation of this year's programs so you won't want to miss it. Plan on being at our October meeting. Hope to see all on October 9!

Final Comment

Tom Tate provides a final comment for this newsletter. He states, when President Lincoln was shot by an assassin's bullet the event inspired Herman Melville to write the following poem. I think it may help us today to focus on our resolve.

The Martyr

Good Friday was the day of the prodigy and crime
When they killed him in his pity, when they killed him
in his prime

Of clemency and calm-when with yearning he was
filled to redeem the evil-willed,
And, though conqueror, be kind; But they killed him in
his kindness,
In their madness and their blindness, and they killed
him from behind.

He lieth in his blood-the father in his face; they have
killed him, the forgiver-
The avenger takes his place, the avenger wisely stern
Who in righteous shall do what the heavens call him
to,

And the parricides remand; for they killed him in his
kindness
In their madness and their blindness, and his blood is
on their hand.

There is sobbing of the strong, and a pall upon the
land;
But the people in their weeping bare the iron hand:
beware the people weeping
When they bare the iron hand

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November 2001

Round Table Business

A fine turnout of 85 members and guest were on hand for our October 9 Round Table meeting at The Inn at Moselem Springs. Unlike our September 11 meeting, greatly effected by the events of that day, we were able to return to a more normal monthly meeting. Our initial Round Table business item was a discussion regarding next years field trip. By a hand count, in a close vote, a one day trip was opted for over the two day trip. With this decision made the Round Table now request the membership to decide if they would prefer a one day trip or two one day trips. In voting on this proposal you will also be asked to select which of the following three choices you would prefer. (1) Upper Shenandoah, (Kernstown and Shenandoah Valley), (2) Antietam, (3) Harrisburg Civil War Museum. If you select a one day only trip, select one trip location. If you select two one day trips, select two trip locations. You will receive a ballot with this newsletter, please make your choice and turn the ballot in at our November meeting to Mike Gabriel. You may also mail your ballot to Mike if you wish. His address is Apt.F9, 139 Normal Ave., Kutztown, Pa. 19530. Whether you go or not please make a choice at this time. Your input is important in helping the Round Table set up next years field trip or trips.

President Dave Valuska advised the Round Table that the book "Gods And Generals", by Jeff Shaara is being produced as a film and he will be playing the role of Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher commander of the Irish Brigade. I believe we will be kept up to date on the films progress at future meetings.

If any member of the Round Table has information or a suggestion on future programs and speakers please present your information to Dave Valuska or Mike Gabriel. All leads would be helpful and appreciated.

Treasure Arlan Christ presented the following financial report. Last months balance \$4,312.03, new income \$2,094.00, new expenses \$963.18, new balance \$5,442.85. Our preservation fund, included in this balance, is \$926.00 giving us a general fund balance of \$4,516.85. Be advised this report does not include October raffle sales and the print sale, this information was not available to Arlan at the time of his report. This information will come to you in the following section of the newsletter and is a good report.

During our October meeting President Valuska noted we would introduce a ten minute open Round Table discussion on selected subjects at future meetings. We will initiate this program in November and our opening topic for review will be this question, "what was the role of Stone's Brigade on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg." In introducing this open program we will cut our monthly quiz from five questions to three because of time restraints. Hopefully participation in this new endeavor will be good.

Jack Gurney gave us comments on his artifacts which he described as "the long and short of it." The long, an 1816 Springfield flint lock smooth bore rifle, weighing 9lbs.

5ozs.. A bayonet designed for use with this rifle, and the short of it, a British .69 caliber "Howdah" percussion double barrel handgun with holster. Jack stated this weapon was used favorably by Quantrill's Raiders.

Kathy and Rich Kennedy are looking into cost regarding our presentation banner reviewed at our October meeting. Stay tuned, more to come on this issue.

Our final business item was Pat Christ's report of 90 members paid for the new year and announcing membership will close one week following our October meeting. This closing date was approved by the membership. In this follow up report to Pat's information at the meeting the Round Table will invite 12 people on our waiting list to become members. They will be asked to decide, by our November meeting, to accept or decline the invitation. Hopefully by our November meeting this issue will be completed and we will have a final membership tally.

Book Raffle / Preservation

I am sure we would all agree that good news is always welcome. Tom Tate our preservation chairman provides our Round Table with this welcome news, our book raffle ticket sales for October amounted to \$171.00, giving us a record ticket sales event over any other month. In addition to the book raffle ticket sales, our \$75.00 Civil War print sale and another \$44.00 from individual donations brought our preservation money obtained in October to a total of \$290.00. With our existing preservation fund at \$926.00, this addition from October gives us a fine preservation balance of \$1,216.00. A Round Table thanks to all members for this record setting month. Tom continues to believe our Round Table has donated as much per capita, in our few years as an organization, as any other Round Table.

The Round Table thanks Paul Foust and Peggy Reichardt for their donation of, "Jeb Stuart The Last Cavalier", this book is a sound biography of the man and his times. We also thank Bruce Englehart for his gift of Bruce Catton's. "Grant Moves South." Look for both of these books in our November raffle. A point of interest for the membership, if you have a subject you would like to see books on for our raffle, please pass on your interest to Tom. Tom selects books to provide a variety of subject matter in hopes of perking every members interest.

Membership brochures are available to any interested member for the Richmond Battlefields Association. See Tom Tate for information.

A final comment to all, records are made to be broken, keep buying those raffle tickets. And thank you all for past efforts.

Program Review

Our program topic "The Archaeology and Recovery of the H.L.Hunley: a Civil War Submarine" was most ably presented to our Round Table by Claire Peachey, head conservator for the Underwater Archaeology branch of the U.S.Naval Historical Center in Washington D.C.. This review will not cover all of our speakers words and comments, in a life time I could not match her presentation. Here then are some highlights. The search for the Hunley ended after 131 years when a team from the National Underwater and Marine Agency discovered the sub after a 14 year search. The team was headed by a Mr. Clive Cussler, their search came to a successful end when on May 3, 1995 they found the sub buried and covered by 8 feet of mud, while lying at a 45 degree angle at the bottom of Charleston Harbor. The Hunley was brought to the surface, after 136 years,

from the bottom of that harbor on the morning of August 8, 2000. The Hunley was taken to a conservation facility in North Charleston.

Peachey stated that "we found the vessel to be in sound condition and looking unexpectedly graceful in its design." Claire then presented us with some facts regarding the Hunley. This vessel was the third sub developed by a group of three men, James McClintock, Baxter Watson and H.L.Hunley. Their first two ships were named Pioneer 1 and American Diver. The Hunley was built in Mobile, Alabama crudely fashioned from a cylindrical iron steam boiler, it was nearly 40 feet in length overall and it had tapered ends. Each end of the sub was equipped with ballast tanks that could be flooded by valves or pumped dry by hand pumps. This vessel was 3.57 feet wide at midships and 4.22 feet top to bottom. Obviously not designed to be occupied by large men. The Hunley carried a crew of nine, eight to hand crank the propeller and one to steer and direct the boat.

The C.S.S.Hunley had both a successful and unsuccessful first combat voyage. Some four miles from the South Carolina shore she attacked and sank the U.S.S.Housatonic during the night of February 16, 1864. The sub rammed the Union warship and sank it when a special torpedo attached to a spar on the front of the Hunley exploded on the right side of the Housatonic. The ship sank in 30 feet of water, but lost only five men in the sinking. Unfortunately this explosion also sank the Hunley.

Prior to raising the Hunley a rectangular pit 100 feet by 40 feet was dug to assist in the excavation process. Large belts were placed under the sub, she was then lifted at the 45 degree angle she was found by attaching her to a large supporting truss. Her front end spar was found separated from the sub and was also brought to the surface in good condition. After close and careful inspections of the vessel, her iron siding plates were removed by drilling the rivets holding the plates together. Once open, the inside access allowed for the removal of thick deposits of soot and the finding of many artifacts. Some findings to date were shoes, buttons, textile particles, personal items, pocket knives and most important human remains of the nine Confederate sailors. These men will receive proper burial in Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston, South Carolina. This program of restoration continues and will do so for sometime to come into the future. Claire Peachey has given us a very clear look at the present in this historical and archaeology study of the raising and restoration of the C.S.S.Hunley.

Did You Know

In the summer of 1861 the ladies in the new Confederate capital of Richmond considered him to be, and gave him the unofficial title of, "the handsomest man in the Confederacy." He was Sydney Smith Lee, son of Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee, of Revolutionary War fame and the older brother of Robert E.Lee. Born in 1806 he was known more as "Smith" to family and friends, than as Sydney. In 1820 he was commissioned a Navy midshipman at the age of 14 years. Smith served in the U.S.Navy for the next 41 years, until April 1861, when he left to join the Confederate naval service. Smith's American naval career was all positive. He served in the Mexican War on the U.S.S.Mississippi, was commander of the Philadelphia Naval Yard for three years, and commandant at the U.S.Naval Academy for three years. Smith's place in history came before the Civil War when in 1852 he commanded the U.S.S.Mississippi, one of four vessels to bring Western civilization to Japan. Smith served under Commodore Matthew C. Perry in his expedition to the hermit kingdom. At the peak of his naval career, with the rank of Commander, with strong political support, his star shined brightly. Then came the

war and things changed. Always close to Robert neither desired to see Virginia join the Confederacy, but both refused to desert their native state. Smith Lee served the Confederate Navy as a good officer and with honor. Unfortunately Smith belonged to the old Navy and its established conservative ways. As the war progressed and the Ironclad became the naval weapon of the day and the future, Smith had misgivings that such vessels would float, never having any faith and favor in Ironclads. He had disagreements with his brother on the effective use of such vessels and began to indicate an unwilling attitude toward command responsibilities due to his feelings toward these ships. He continued to serve the Confederacy in minor capacities to the end of the war, but never played a key role in any military action. Perhaps Smith Lee's heart was never with the Confederacy once stating he wished "South Carolina could be blown out of the water, for bringing us into this snare." After the war Smith was not to meet Robert again until May of 1869. After a brief visit he returned home and on July 24, 1869 died of a liver ailment. He was the closest friend Robert E Lee ever had. Of interest, Robert never called his brother by the name Smith, he was known to him as "Rose." Also of interest, one of Smith's seven children was Major General Fitzhugh Lee who served in both the Civil and Spanish American Wars.

October Quiz and Answers

Q.1 During the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862, the Confederate Army occupied the steep rise called Marye's Heights which was the focus of repeated Union charges. How many charges were made at Marye's Heights that day by the Union Army?

A.1 14 charges, all of them fruitless.

Q.2 The U.S.S. Rhode Island managed to rescue forty seven men on December 30, 1862 as a famous ship foundered in a storm and went down off Cape Hatteras. Name the ship, and if you can the number of men who died in the sinking?

A.2 U.S.S. Monitor, sixteen men and officers.

Q.3 What foreign government's offer of mediation between North and South was officially rejected on February 6, 1863?

A.3 The French Government, under Napoleon III.

Q.4 What state was the last state to join the Confederacy?

A.4 Tennessee, ratified a resolution of independence on June 8, 1861.

Q.5 On April 17, 1863 three Regiments of Union cavalry from The Army of the Tennessee began a brilliant, audacious and successful ride and raid that played an important part in U.S. Grant's 1863 Vicksburg campaign. Name the federal officer who commanded this raid and if possible the objective of the raid?

A.5 Colonel Benjamin Grierson, the raid was to distract Confederate troops from Grant's crossing the Mississippi below Vicksburg and tie up as many Confederate troops as possible. (John Wayne also acceptable to members of *our* Round Table)

November Quiz

Q.1 At the Battle of Shiloh a captured Confederate private subsequently joined the Union army as a "galvanized yankee." Later in his life he would achieve worldwide fame for uttering what may have been the most quoted words ever spoken on the African continent. Name him?

Q.2 In May of 1861 a woman regarded as one of the great American humanitarians and reformers offered her services in establishing hospital care for Union soldiers. Two

weeks following her acceptance by the government she was put in charge of all Union nurses. Name this women?

Q.3 On the evening of September 14, 1862, a federal cavalry officer lead a breakout of some 1,500 bluecoats from a desperate situation at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. This adventure of escape was considered a brilliant success. Can you name this officer and his cavalry regiment?

November Meeting

Our November meeting will be on Tuesday November 13. We will meet at The Inn at Moselem Springs, meeting time is 6:30 P.M.. Members planning to attend the meeting must make their reservations and meal selections by Wednesday November 7. *At this point we must make a special request to all the membership. We must ask that you please make your reservations by our cutoff date. Late reservations cause some problems for the Round Table and the restaurant in arranging for the dinner reservations. Please help us with this request, we do not want to turn anyone away. Thank you all for your consideration and cooperation.* Please call **610-683-4391** with your reservation request or e-mail Mike Gabriel at Gabriel @ Kutztown.edu to place an order. Again our reservation date is November 7. Please speak clearly when leaving a message.

Dinner selections for November include **Shepherds Pie; Baked Manicotti; Baked Haddock**. Meal price is \$15.00. As always if you make a reservation, but cannot attend, please pay for your selection to save the Round Table this expense.

Our November program will be a presentation by John Hoptak a graduate student at Lehigh University and an alumnus of Kutztown University. His topic will be the 48th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment. This regiment played a key role in the preperation for the Battle of the Crater.

Hope to see a great turnout for our November meeting.

Opinion Poll-Best and Worst Generals

At our October meeting I asked all members to join me in conducting an opinion poll. I again extend this invitation to you. For those who missed our October meeting this poll is designed to obtain the Round Table members opinion of the ten best and worst Civil War Generals. This poll should combine both Union and Confederate Generals in your lists of best and worst. To make it your poll and opinions please make your choices on your own personal views from your overall knowledge of the Civil War. While influenced by the writings and teachings of historians, pick your people as you read and felt about them.

Let's set our December meeting as our date to turn in your opinion poll. If you wish you can give them to me anytime up to the December meeting. I will provide address information if you wish to mail the polls to me. Please participate, this is for all of us, the final review should be interesting and maybe entertaining.

Please use the back of this sheet for your poll. Thank you!

Opinion Poll---Best and Worst Civil War Generals

Ten Best

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

Ten Worst

1
2
3
4
5
6
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8
9
10

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THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

December 2001

Round Table Business

The First Defenders welcomed 73 members and guest to the November meeting at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Our first item of business was the review of the vote on a one day or two one day field trips. By a vote of 21 to 17 a single trip of one day was the choice of the members. The trip location selected was Kernstown. Trip information will be presented at a future meeting.

A proposal by the board of directors was presented to the membership and accepted. This proposal was to transfer \$1800.00 from our general treasury into our preservation fund. Contributions were then approved for various preservation groups. Those groups and the amount of each donation are as follows:

South Mountain	\$500.00
Richmond Battlefields Association	\$500.00
Antietam	\$500.00
Gettysburg	\$750.00
Kernstown	\$250.00
Monocacy	\$146.00

Total contributions were \$2,646.00. If you are wondering why such an odd amount to Monocacy, this goes to Civil War Preservation Trust and the amount buys an acre of land because matching funds will be added to it.

Arlan Christ's treasures report showed an old balance of \$5,442.85, new income \$2,081.00, new expenses \$1,279.14, giving a new balance of \$6,244.71.

Pat Christ's membership report was 113 members paid, with two checks pending, giving us a total membership of 115. I believe this figure includes two honorary members and closes our membership for this year.

The Kennedy's have been working to secure a manufacturer for our proposed banner. An estimated cost of a worthwhile banner would be in the amount of \$1,000.00. The banner would measure 4 feet by 8 feet and have a sleeve across the top to hold a rod so it could be hung on a wall. Some concerns at the cost by members at the November meeting leave this issue on the table. Membership must decide if they think such a banner at the estimated cost is a worthwhile expense for our organization. The Round Table extends our appreciation to Rich and Kathy Kennedy for all their work in this effort. A vote may come up at the December meeting to resolve this issue.

Arlan Christ extended an invitation to all members to attend an open house of their new "Towne Squire Gallery" on November 23 and 24. Now I realize this newsletter will come to you after these dates, hopefully many will remember Arlan's invitation to us at the November meeting, I'm also sure the Christ's will welcome your visit to the Gallery at any time in the future. Towne Squire Gallery will be located at 332 W. Main St., Kutztown, Pa. 19530, telephone number is 610-683-7712. Arlan has demonstrated his interest in Civil War art in the past, to the Round Table, by bringing prints to the

meetings for our review and pleasure. When an opportunity presents itself visit the Gallery and enjoy Civil War art. One last point, sales are always welcome, framing is also available. Good luck to our fellow members in their new venture with "Towne Squire Gallery."

Jack Gurney presented for our review a very fine LaMatt revolver, this weapon fired a 44 caliber cartridge and was equipped to fire a single 20 gauge shotgun shell. The LaMatt was used by Confederate cavalry. Early models had a firing problem in that the cartridge in the cylinder did not line up well with the chamber and barrel of the weapon. This fault was corrected with the passing of time. As always our thanks to Jack.

Book Raffle / Preservation

We didn't set another record, but we had a very good month with our raffle. Tom Tate reports that thanks to our members book contributions and to Jack Gurney for another lamp donation 149 tickets were sold at our November meeting with no raffle expenses incurred for this month. All raffle monies went into our preservation fund. Because of the book contributions we have held our raffle cost to minimum.

Tom further reports on these new book donations by members. Jack Ewing donated *Lee's Maverick General, Daniel Harvey Hill; Gentle Tiger, Roberdeau Wheat; Inside the Confederate Government; and Lee's Gallant General, Stephen Dodson Ramseur*. Ira Boyer donated *Burnside's Bridge*, we received *The Class of 1846* but did not get the donor name, please let us know and we will acknowledge your contribution. Last but not least Barry Adams gave us *Stone's Brigade and the Fight for the McPherson Farm*. If you remember at our November meeting Barry gave a glowing review of this book and he was so anxious to share it with us he gladly gave it to Tom at the meeting, or was it he was anxious to get rid of it. Anyway, our thanks to these members for their contributions which continue to keep the raffle offerings well supplied.

As noted in our business report a number of changes took place to our preservation fund, with the monies added to our fund from November's raffle our preservation fund now stands at \$510.00. Again thanks to all members and keep buying those raffle tickets.

Program Review

Our topic for our November program, presented by John Hoptak a graduate student at Lehigh University, was "In the Cause of the Union there is No Such Word as Fail"- 48th. Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment. Mr. Hoptak's interest in the Civil War and the 48th. Pennsylvania began as a young boy growing up in Schuylkill County. John gave us a brief history of the 48th Regiment's activities during the war and a number of comments on some of the men who served with the 48th.

This regiment was established and brought into service in late 1861 and was populated primarily of men from the Pottsville, St. Clair and Port Clinton areas. Most, but not all, of the men were and came from mining families. The key figure in the early stages of the 48th. history was Colonel James Nagle, who commanded the brigade to which the 48th. was assigned. Nagle was advanced to the rank of Brigadier General by the time of the Fredericksburg Campaign due to his solid performance as a brigade commander. Prior to the end of the war Nagle had to leave the service because of poor health. Born in Reading he lived in the Schuylkill County area much of his life and died from heart problems at the age 44.

Following a mustering in, December 1861, the 48th. was assigned to the command of Ambrose E. Burnside and began their war service at New Berne, North Carolina. The

48th. saw service at South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, went west with the 9th. Corps and returned to the Army of the Potomac and took part in Grant's Overland Campaign. The next stop, and action, of the 48th. was with, and during, the operations of the Army of the Potomac against the entrenchments of Petersburg. It was here that this regiment engaged in what might be viewed as its crowning moment the Petersburg Mine, or as history has so long remembered it, the Battle of the Crater. Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pleasants of the 48th. Pennsylvania oversaw the mining operations, Pleasants himself being an experienced and skillful mining engineer. The 48th dug the mine themselves receiving no help from any other units. The mine completed in one month was 510.8 feet long, had two lateral galleries, 37 and 38 feet, the laterals under the Confederate lines held 320 kegs of black powder in eight magazines, four in each lateral each containing 1,000 pounds of powder. The charge was set off on the morning of July 30, 1864. Although they dug the mine they were not involved in the fight in the Crater, their only shot in this battle was the mine explosion.

During its service the 48th. was assigned throughout the war to the 9th. Corps, 2nd. Division, 1st. Brigade. Upon its return home at war's end it registered some 1,926 men assigned to the regiment and suffered approximately 530 casualties. Mr. Hoptak has put a great deal of time and study into the history of the 48th. Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The Round Table thanks and appreciates his efforts and presentation to our members on one of Pennsylvania's historic Civil War units.

Did You Know

Webster tells us the word parole, when applied to a prisoner of war is a pledge of honor by a prisoner of war, in return for his release, that he will not serve against his captors. Early in the Civil War paroled and honor were words, and actions, that went hand in hand. On both sides captured soldiers could be paroled this was generally the first step in a unique system of prisoner of war exchanges. This arrangement was established by the two governments in July 1862. Once paroled the prisoner was released to go home or sent to a certain collection or holding point. Men paroled were under an agreement not to fight again until the other side received an equal number of parolees. However, once he became exchanged, he was then able to rejoin his unit, or another command and return to normal duty. Because the negotiations for exchanges sometimes took many months, many parolees were unsure as to when they were exchanged and not sure when they could rejoin their units. This was one of the main problems of the exchange system. The main benefit of this system was prisoners did not need to be guarded, sheltered and fed.

The POW exchange system had a rate of exchange, enlisted men in the ranks, one for one; for officers, rank for rank. If there were no equivalent ranks a complex scale of exchange took place. A Major General was worth 30 enlisted men, a Captain was worth 6 enlisted men, Sergeants worth 2 and other exchanges depending on ranks. This system of parole and exchange worked well for less than a year, however because it was based on honor and agreements that disintegrated with the passing of time, and other factors of war it began to fail. In 1864 when confusion offset benefits all exchanges were halted and prison camps on both sides became overcrowded. With this the condition the prisoner of war camps became abominable and the life of the POW suffered accordingly.

Probably the largest body of soldiers paroled during the war occurred in July 1863 at Vicksburg, Mississippi, when some twenty thousand men were exchanged. They and

others paroled and exchanged may well have been the lucky ones. Far to many who went to the camps, as we know from our Civil War history, had a fate much less desirable.

Round Table Discussion

At our November meeting we had our first open discussion. Our topic for November was "the role of Stone's Brigade on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg." A number of comments from the membership gave us all a clear picture of this brigade's work on the first day. I believe I would be safe in saying that Colonel Stone and his brigade, the 150th, 149th, and 143rd Pa. Volunteer Regiments did very good work in their role along the Chambersburg Pike and the area of the McPherson Farm, but paid a heavy price in casualties during the first days action.

We had a good start to our open discussion period, our next subject for December will be "the New York Draft Riots." Come prepared and join the discussion, everyone of us may have something to contribute.

November Quiz and Answers

Q.1 At the Battle of Shiloh a captured Confederate private subsequently joined the Union Army as a "galvanized yankee." Later in his life he would achieve worldwide fame for uttering what may have been the most quoted words ever spoken on the African continent. Name him?

A.1 Henry Morton Stanley, who said, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume."

Q.2 In May of 1861 a woman regarded as one of the great American humanitarians and reformers offered her services in establishing hospital care for Union soldiers. Two weeks following her acceptance by the government she was put in charge of all Union nurses. Name this woman?

A.2 Dorothea Dix

Q.3 On the evening of September 14, 1862, a federal officer lead a breakout of some 1,500 bluecoats from a desperate situation at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. This adventure of escape was considered a brilliant success. Can you name this officer and his cavalry regiment?

A.3 Colonel Benjamin F. Davis --- 8th. New York Cavalry

December Quiz

Q.1 On the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, at approximately 1PM in the afternoon the Confederate forces open a cannonade of suddenness and great magnitude on the Federal lines on Cemetery Ridge. About 2:30PM on the Federal position a conflict in authority over the proper use of artillery started a rather acrimonious dispute between two of the finest generals in the Union Army. This dispute persisted for years after the war and may have colored their interpretations of the battle. Name both of the general officers in this dispute?

Q.2 He was the brother of a famous American military officer, he was the only person in any branch of the U.S. Army who received two Medals of Honor during the Civil War. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Name this man?

Q.3 Both the Union and the Confederacy had famous fighting units during the Civil War. One of the Unions most famous was the Irish Brigade. The regiments that served with this brigade were mainly populated by men of Irish decent. The following regiments were members of this brigade at different times during the war. The 63rd, 69th and 88th New York, the 28th and 29th Massachusetts, the 116th Pennsylvania, the 4th New York

Heavy Artillery and the 7th New York Heavy Artillery. Of these eight units who served in the Irish Brigade, one of the units was non-Irish. Can you name that unit?

December Meeting

Our December meeting will be on Tuesday December 11. We will meet at the Inn at Moselem Springs, meeting time is 6:30PM. In keeping with past December meetings our program will feature songs popular during the Civil War, and popular in the south. Our entertainment will be provided by the 2nd South Carolina String Band who come to us from the Gettysburg area. Members are encouraged to wear period costume to enhance the evening festivities.

Members planning to attend the meeting must make their reservations and meal selections by **Wednesday December 5**. We again request members make their reservations by our cutoff date, and we again thank you for your cooperation. Please call **610-683-4391** with your reservation request or e-mail Mike Gabriel at **Gabriel @ Kutztown.edu** to place an order. When ordering by telephone please speak clearly. Dinner selections for our December meeting include **Quakertown Roast; Baked Ziti; Grilled Salmon**. Prior to this meeting hot hoerve d' uevers will be available to the membership and guest. For our Christmas meeting and program our dinner price will be \$20.00. If you make a reservation and cannot attend please pay for your selections to save the Round Table this expense. We hope to see all at this meeting.

Final Comments

Just a reminder that our December meeting will be our turn in date for our Best and Worst Generals opinion poll. I hope each of you will participate in this poll. If you do not have the poll sheet available, any list on a piece of paper will be acceptable. The more lists I receive the more interesting the poll results should be, hopefully we can have the results by January or February at the latest. Please join in and help our Round Table select a best and worst group of generals.

While our December meeting is well before Christmas, as newsletter editor, I would like to wish each of you and your families a very happy and blessed Christmas season and the very best in the coming New Year.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table at Kutztown University January 2002

JANUARY MEETING

Fifty-six First Defenders attended our January 2002 meeting. **Ron Rhein** conducted the business portion of the meeting. Arlan Christ announced that the round table was going to receive one of two Don Troiani Civil War print for having donated \$500 for the preservation of Antietam. The membership voted to send another \$500 to Antietam in order to gain the second print. We can auction or raffle these off to the membership over the next several months. The money will go to our preservation fund. The membership also voted to table the subject of a round table banner at this time and thanked **Rich and Cathie Kennedy** for locating a vendor and working on a preliminary design. The possibility was raised of obtaining a Civil War era drum as the round table symbol. We will investigate this option.

The meeting was a true round table evening. We discussed the general situation and events of the Seven Days Campaign. Ron Rhein acted as moderator and provided the general background of the entire Peninsula Campaign that led up to the Seven Days. The members commented on the different style of generalship between McClellan and Lee. Ron was able to query the members and get their opinions on the operation as he went from one battle to the next. He drew upon our experiences having visited the locale this past summer. In summary, the meeting brought out how large were the forces involved in the battles of the Seven Days and the prominent part played by Pennsylvanian troops. Programs of this round table format, while somewhat difficult to lead and moderate, are beneficial and give a true meaning to the term Civil War round table.

Book Raffle/Preservation

At our January meeting, the memberships voted to send an additional \$500 to Antietam as described above. We raised another \$85 for the preservation fund on the raffle. One hundred four tickets were sold, but we had expenses of \$19. After the additional \$500 to Antietam, our preservation fund contains \$204. We should be able to increase it significantly with the raffles for the remaining months of this season.

Thanks for the donation of Stephen Crane's *Red Badge of Courage*. This is a classic Civil War novel and is nicely bound. It would make a fine present for a youngster. In the general hubbub of ticket sales, I forgot to record the name of the donor. My apologies for not being able to give you the credit you deserve. Please put your name on a slip of paper when you donate a gift so that you can receive the proper recognition.

February Meeting

Our February meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on **Tuesday, February 12**, at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Members planning to attend must make their reservations and meal selections by **Wednesday, February 6**. We make a special request that you **make your reservations by the cutoff date**. Late reservations cause some problems for the round table and the restaurant in arranging the dinner. Please help us with this request. Thanks for all your consideration and cooperation. Please call **(610) 683-4391** with your reservation request or email **Mike Gabriel** at **gabriel@kutztown.edu**. **Please speak clearly when you leave a message.**

Dinner selections for the February meeting include **Shepherd's Pie, Baked Ziti, and Grilled Salmon**. The price is **\$15**. As always, if you make a reservation but cannot attend, please pay for your selection to save the round table this expense.

Our February meeting will feature **First Defender member Rich Kennedy**, who will give a presentation on **"The Siege of Petersburg."** It's always great when one of our members is the speaker as it adds to the round table experience. At the February meeting, new members will receive their name tags and membership certificates, if they are back from the engraver. Finally, we won't be discussing the New York Draft Riots at the February meeting, but will in March. We apologize if this causes any inconvenience. We hope to see you all at the next meeting.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

March 2002

Round Table Business

Seventy members were in attendance for our February 2002 meeting. Our first order of business was the introduction of ten new members and the presentation of certificates of membership.

Our spring field trip was finalized, we will visit the Shenandoah Valley and the Kernstown and Cedar Creek battlefields. Our trip is scheduled for Saturday June 15, 2002. Plans are for those going on the trip to carry their lunch. We will have a banquet meal at the Wayside Inn in Middleburg at 6 PM and then depart for our trip home. Specific information regarding the trip will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

Mike Gabriel announced that he will give up his office as Vice-President at the end of this season. Mike has been named Chairperson of the History Department at Kutztown University effective May 2, 2002, he will not have time to handle his current office in the Round Table. He will however continue his membership. Mike's work on setting up programs will be taken over by Tom Tate, he will work with Dave Valuska on future programs. We will look to the membership for our new board member, if you have an interest please speak to one of the officers, we would like to fill this vacancy as soon as we can.

We would like to review our meeting format, with business items, our quiz and our desire for a monthly topic for discussion, we're concerned with the time element in getting to our speakers program. We want to have enough time for the speaker to be comfortable in their presentation. These issues will be reviewed, hopefully, at our March meeting. Membership input is important, please give your views on this matter.

Our treasure's report showed a balance of \$3,359.80, new income \$875.00, new expenses \$1,325.17, giving us a new balance of \$2,909.63. This report does not include February income and expense. Arlan Christ also had on display the two Don Troiani prints we received from the Save Antietam Foundation for our preservation gift of \$500.00 to them in December and a second \$500.00 gift in January. We will be auctioning off these two prints at our April meeting.

Jack Gurney had a large drum to show us with our Round Table identified on it, it was a nice piece of work. A second restored drum of the 203rd. Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment was also available for our review.

We were notified that member Jack Clarkson had passed away, no details of his passing were available to us. I'm sure we all join in extending our sympathy to his family and friends.

Book Raffle / Preservation

The members purchased 139 tickets at our February meeting. We had book expenses of \$20.00, our preservation fund was increased by \$119.00, our previous balance was \$204.00, this gives our fund a new balance of \$323.00. With three meetings left in this campaign we hope to top \$500.00 by the end of the season. Please continue to support the

raffle and help your Round Table meet our end of season goal. Tom also reports our book inventory is high holding cost down. Our thanks to Paul Foust and Peggy Reichardt for donating *All for the Union, the Civil War Diary and Letters of Elisha Hunt Rhodes*.

On preservation Tom made this comment, "the time frame remaining to obtain battlefield land is fading, 5 to 10 years may be all that is left. For what needs to be done, it must be done in that time frame, or it will be too late." This is something for all of us to keep in mind.

Program Review

Fellow member Rich Kennedy of our Round Table presented the program for our February meeting. Rich's topic was "Petersburg a Microcosm of War", identifying this community with many other communities in the Confederacy with similar hopes, desires and interest. Following a rousing welcome, practiced a few times with Rich's encouragement, we the members became a part of his presentation as we became members of the citizenry of the Petersburg-Richmond area attending a meeting and presentation by Elias Cavanaugh one of a group of couriers enlisted and employed by President Jefferson Davis and Secretary of War James Seddon, throughout the area, to present to us the status of the war as of November, 1864. Rich identified the date as 11-1-1864 and dressed in fine period costume he addressed our meeting in the first person as Mr. Elias Cavanaugh.

Since Mr. Cavanaugh covered a number of issues in detail, which I cannot do here because of space, I will try to review some of his key points of the Petersburg situation in late 1864. Utilizing a very fine cloth map we received information and locations of these issues. With Richmond his objective, General Grant ordered General Butler to take his 35,000 man Army of the James to Bermuda Hundred then march west and attack either Richmond or Petersburg. Butler reached Bermuda Hundred, but he waited and did nothing, cut off by Confederate forces he and his army were immobilized. At this time Grant himself was stopped again at Cold Harbor with terrible loss. Grant now focused his attention on the rail networks supplying Lee, one in Richmond, the other in Petersburg. Grant's plan was to move his army to the southside of the James River and seize the rail center of Petersburg also sending General Sheridan with cavalry west to Charlottesville to destroy rail bridges and track, then to return to the army. On June 14, 1864 federal engineers took eight hours to place a 2,100 foot-long pontoon bridge over the James River allowing the army to cross. Mr. Cavanaugh stated this was completed with Lee much in the dark as to what was happening. With Grant now in position to attack Petersburg, Beauregard, commanding Confederate troops in this area, had only fortifications as his primary defense, these fortifications were known as the Dimmock Line named for Captain Charles Dimmock the engineer who laid it out. Its strength was illusory unless properly manned, which it was not. Sadly the sorry performance of Federal commanders in front of Petersburg brought them little success. "Elias" applauded the Confederate efforts and referred to numerous Union commanders, such as, Burnside, Butler, Hinks, Gilmore, Ledlie, Ferrero and "Baldy" Smith as men and officers who represented the "east end, of a west bound horse." He referred to this description of Union officers on numerous occasions. He was probably right, this was quite a group. With Union failures siege became the issue, a strategy neither Grant nor Lee wanted. In spite of Grant's failures and frustrations our joy is tempered by Lee's understanding of Grant's

achievements, stated Cavanaugh. Once Grant reached and crossed the James, siege was the issue, and for us it will be a mere question of time.

Elias Cavanaugh's most detailed report was of the Battle of the Crater, covering the preparation, execution and results of that battle, with much more detail that can be provided here. Comments regarding Wade Hampton's cavalry raid for cattle and a story of Colonel Joshua Chamberlain's near fatal wound were reviewed. During this point in the presentation Mr. Cavanaugh began an interesting change from the bearing and dress of a Confederate leading citizen to a tired, worn, sad, angry and frustrated Confederate soldier. Rich's soldier was named Inman, the date April 2, 1865, soldier Inman was talking with a Confederate officer who thought he was deserting because he was not at his post. This single dialogue of Inman the soldier responding to implied questions and charges leveled at him by the officer I believe represented the forlorn and desperate situation of the man in the trenches in 1865 Virginia. He had enough, he wanted to go home to Cold Mountain to a young lady waiting for him, he wasn't a coward, he did his duty fighting, he said we had our successes, but now all was hopeless, I want to go home, I don't care anymore, it's over. And so was this fine performance and presentation by our Rich Kennedy. Rich had to put a ton of work into this program, the Round Table extends our deepest appreciation for his work and effort. Following the presentation Dave Valuska said all I can say at this time is "I'll be damned." Perhaps I could say for all the Round Table that we all were "I'll be damned." Thank you Rich and thanks to Elias Cavanaugh and soldier Inman, all three good men.

Did You Know

On March 13, 1862, General Order No. 101 organized the First, Second, Third and Fourth Corps. When General George B. McClellan moved his army to the Virginia Peninsula late in March 1862 the Second, Third and Fourth Corps were part of his army. The First Corps under General McDowell remained in Northern Virginia.

While the First, Second and Third Corps all had a long distinguished service life the Fourth lasted only until August, 1862. What happened to the Union's Fourth Corps of the Army of the Potomac? Here's their story. When created the Corps was formed by the divisions of Generals Couch, Smith and Casey, with General Erasmus D. Keys in command of the Corps. On March 31, 1862 the Corps showed an aggregate number of 37,910 men and 60 pieces of artillery, of this number 32,919 were present for duty. The Corps moved to the Peninsula in March, 1862 with the army and participated in the battle of Williamsburg, where it sustained only a slight loss.

Following this battle things began to change for the Fourth. On May 18th, General William Smith's Division was detached and assigned to the newly formed Sixth Corps, leaving the Fourth with two divisions. With this reduction the Fourth now counted 25,317 present and absent, with 17,132 present for duty; the artillery was reduced to 38 guns.

At the battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks) the full force of the Confederate attack fell on the advanced position held by Casey's Division, this unit stood its ground for some time, inflicting a severe loss on the enemy. They retired when sufficient supports had arrived to save the day. Hotly engaged during this battle the Fourth Corps suffered over half the Union loss at Fair Oaks. The loss was 384 killed, 1,747 wounded and 466 missing out of less than 12,000 engaged.

During the Seven Days Battle, the Corps guarded the trains of the Army of the Potomac during the withdrawal to the new supply base on the James River. General

Couch's Division took a prominent part in the battle at Malvern Hill, losing over 600 killed and wounded.

When the army was ordered to abandon its position before Richmond, the Fourth was again divided. General Couch's Division accompanied the army on the Maryland campaign and saw some action at Antietam. After that battle, Couch's Division was transferred, in total, to the Sixth Corps, the second division of the Fourth Corps sent to the Sixth.

The remaining division of the Fourth Corps, the only one remaining, was ordered to remain on the Peninsula, here it remained for a few months then was sent to Suffolk, Virginia. In August, 1862 the Fourth Corps was officially discontinued and its divisions were never reunited. A brief but productive history for the Fourth Corps.

A few last comments regarding the Fourth Corps. Its two divisions during the Peninsula Campaign had five brigades, 27 regiments, the regiments present were 12 New York, 11 Pennsylvania, 2 Massachusetts, 1 Maine and 1 Rhode Island. It had 8 batteries of artillery, 4 Pennsylvania 3 New York and 1 US. 1 Cavalry unit, Pennsylvania, as you can see a very decided Pennsylvania flavor with a number of the regiments populated with men from Berks and nearby counties.

In some of our future Did You Know articles I will try to provide information on other Corps not as well known to us as those familiar to us as part of the Army of the Potomac.

March Quiz

Q.1 We are familiar with the Confederate submarine, CSS Hunley, can you name the North's only submarine?

Q.2 This Civil War hospital was, and remains to the present day, the largest military hospital ever built. Name this hospital?

Q.3 Following the Battle of Gettysburg, the First, Second and Third Corps were assigned new commanders to replace Generals Reynolds, Hancock and Sickles. In addition General Meade appointed a new Chief of Staff for his army. Can you name any or all of the officers given the new assignments?

Miscellaneous Items

Our Round Table discussion for our March meeting will be "the New York Draft Riots." Come prepared and join the discussion, any one of us may have something to contribute.

Here is a quick look at our upcoming programs for the remaining three months of this year. March--- Lieutenant General James Longstreet will visit and speak to the Round Table. In April--- Dave Valuska and Tom Tate will be the speakers, they will be giving background and information on the two battlefields we will visit on our June trip, Kernstown and Cedar Creek. At our May meeting Ron Rhein and Mike Gabriel will take us to the Western Theater and speak on the subject "the Emergence of Grant."

Tom Tate offers this list of book titles to those planning on going on the field trip if you wish to bone up on the subject. On Kernstown--- any biography of Stonewall Jackson, Freeman's *Lee's Lieutenants*, Robert Krick's *Conquering the Valley* and Gary L. Ecelbarger's *We Are In For It*. On Cedar Creek--- Thomas A. Lewis *The Guns of Cedar Creek*, Joseph W.A. Whitehorn's *Battle of Cedar Creek*, any biography of Phil Sheridan or Jubal Early.

March Meeting

Our March meeting will be on Tuesday March 12. We will meet at the Inn at Moselem Springs, meeting time is 6:30PM. Members planning to attend the meeting must make their reservations and meal selections by **Wednesday March 6**. To place a reservation please call **610-683-4391**. Please speak clearly when leaving a message. You can also order by e-mail, send to Mike Gabriel at gabriel@kutztown.edu. We again request all reservations be made by the cutoff date. Our meal selections for March will be **Quakertown Roast; Baked Manicotti and Baked Haddock**, our meal price remains at \$15.00.

As noted previously in the newsletter our program for March will be a visit to the Round Table by Confederate Lieutenant General James Longstreet. I believe this is an in costume presentation. Hopefully it will follow in the footsteps of an earlier visit to the Round Table by Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, if so we have much to look forward to and should have a fine evening. Look to see a great turnout for our March meeting, see you all at the meeting.

Best and Worst Opinion Poll

We reviewed the results of the poll at our February meeting this will give you a written view and you won't have to test your memory.

<u>Best</u>	<u>Worst</u>
1. Lee	Burnside
2. Grant	Bragg
3. Jackson	Butler
4. Hancock	Pope
5. Sherman	McClellan
6. Longstreet	Hood
7. Meade	Sickles
8. Thomas	Fremont
9. Forrest	Sheridan
10. Stuart	Hooker
11. Sheridan & Reynolds	Halleck
12. Gordon	McDowell
13. Cleburne	Banks & Pillow
14. Buford	Polk
15. Armistead	Roscrans

There were 583 Union and 425 Confederate Generals to choose from. 33 Generals got "best" votes and 37 Generals got "worst" votes, not all listed above, others were 16th. or lower. Top 15 best had 8 Union and 8 Confederate, top 15 worst had 12 Union and 4 Confederate, as listed we had ties on both sides providing 16 names. Sheridan only officer to receive votes in best and worst category in top 15. Though he commanded an army, McClellan received only 1 vote in the best category

My thanks to all who participated, I hope this provided some interest to all members of the Round Table. If any one would like more information on the poll please let me know and I'll do my best to provide it, again thanks, I enjoyed doing the poll.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

April 2002

Round Table Business

Our March meeting was attended by 73 members and guest. Dave Valuska open our business meeting with information on our June 15, 2002 field trip. Our tour will take us to the battlefields of Kernstown and Cedar Creek. Those going on the tour should provide their own lunch, our evening dinner, at 6PM will be a stop at the Wayside Inn, located along the route of General Jackson's army. The evening meal and bus fair will be a part of the tour price. At this writing our trip cost was estimated to be \$65.00 per person. This is not a final cost figure. Hopefully a final cost will be available at our April meeting. Our bus capacity will be 39 seats, trip reservation information should also be finalized by our April meeting.

Dave advised he and Tom Tate will be our speakers for our April meeting, they will present a program on the two battlefields we will visit on our June trip, Kernstown and Cedar Creek. In May Ron Rhein and Mike Gabriel will speak on "The Emergence of Grant."

The Round Table will auction the two Don Troiani prints we have had on display at our last two meetings at our April meeting. Troiani's work may be the best in Civil War art, the prints sale will greatly aid our preservation program.

We request any member who has an interest in serving as an officer and board member of the Round Table, or who may desire information on what may be required to serve on the board, to contact Dave Valuska at 610-683-1533. A telephone call does not hold you to a commitment to serve.

A \$500.00 gift was approved by the membership to be set aside for the Civil War Preservation Trust for Fox's Gap in the South Mountain battlefield area.

I provide a correction here to our March newsletter. I noted the passing of member Ted Clarkson, I incorrectly referred to Ted as Jack. My apology and again our sympathy to his family and friends.

Our treasure's report showed a balance of \$2,909.63, new income \$1,184.00, new expenses \$1,186.00, giving us a new balance of \$2,907.63.

Book Raffle / Preservation

The members added another \$147.00 to our preservation fund bringing our total to \$470.00. Considering how much we have donated this campaign year already to various preservation groups this is a very tidy sum. We still have April and May to supplement it still further. Success in the upcoming auction of the two Troiani prints will also contribute to the fund. Tom also indicated our book inventory is good and we received two more books at our March meeting. Paul Foust and Peggy Reichardt donated *Touched by Fire*, Ira Boyer donated *The Colton Letters* a book containing over 200 letters from an Ohio family whose sons and brothers served the Union. Our thanks to these donors for their worthwhile contributions.

Program Review

Our program for the evening was a presentation by Mr. Ronald Hawkins, of Newburg, Maryland. Mr. Hawkins came to us in costume representing Confederate Lieutenant General James Longstreet and provided a first person account, and defense, of his actions during the Battle of Gettysburg. Longstreet at Gettysburg certainly has been historically noted as one of the great controversies of the American Civil War even to this day. Speaking as General Longstreet he noted he had no problem defending his actions during the battle, stating that many facts were misguided, even outright lies. If I had to fight the battle again my views and actions would change little, he stated.

Longstreet spoke warmly of his relationship with General Lee. We rode together in route to the north and spoke of fighting only on the tactical defense. Our battles in the south favored us, we did not have the same problems of supply, communications, forage and protecting our rear areas as our enemy. This would now change and as we moved further north, these type problems would become ours. The General spoke to the accusations of blame directed toward himself and to men such as Ewell, Stuart and Hill. His views were these men did not deserve such charges for they as individuals were not to blame for the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg. The charge that I disobeyed orders prior to my Corps July 2 attack were untrue and proved unfounded with the passing of time.

General Longstreet conceded that delays occurred in carrying out orders and had a negative effect on Confederate fortunes at Gettysburg. He suggested some delays were caused by the Federal Army, such as the Signal Unit on the Round Top and Sickles 3rd Corps unexpected occupancy of the Peach Orchard. The General seemed greatly concerned that it was stated he did not obey Lee's order to attack at a certain time, he said "Lee never gave me an order to move at a specific time."

In concluding his presentation, General Longstreet stressed he continued his plea to General Lee for a move to the left of the Federal Army on July 3rd. Lee rejected my plan and stated "the enemy is there", pointing to the Federal lines, "and I am going to strike him." Longstreet's response may well have been his strongest defense of his actions during the battle when he said, "General, I have been a soldier all my life. I have been with soldiers engaged in fights by couples, squads, companies, regiments, divisions, and armies, and should know, as well as anyone, what soldiers can do. It is my opinion that no 15,000 men ever arrayed for battle can take that position." My views were not accepted and the attack was carried out. History has defined and recorded the results of the July 3rd attack and of the Battle of Gettysburg, Ron Hawkins portrayal of James Longstreet and his comments and views to our Round Table contribute another piece in understanding the Longstreet at Gettysburg controversy. The First Defenders extend our thanks and appreciation to Mr. Hawkins and to Lieutenant General James Longstreet for visiting with us and presenting their views.

Did You Know

At the end of the Civil War domestic issues took center stage with the American public. While foreign affairs did not gain as great a portion of public attention there were several situations in foreign relations that could not be overlooked, they had to be addressed, due to the fact they could lead to serious difficulties. Chief among these was a difference with Great Britain. With Grant now president, and Hamilton Fish his Secretary of State, the United States claimed that Britain had violated neutrality laws during the

Civil War by allowing Confederate ordered warships to be built in English shipyards. These ships were then released for use by the Confederacy against Northern commerce.

The American claims for damages were called the "Alabama Claims" as the CSS Alabama was the most successful and notorious of these vessels. The Alabama having claimed 69 prizes worth \$6 million. The British government willingly admitted its error for they wanted to prevent a "neutral" United States favoring a British enemy in some future war. In the beginning the British were not willing to arbitrate this issue for there were other Anglo-American problems to be reviewed. Following the American demand in the "Alabama Claims" Great Britain demanded the United States pay her subjects for war losses of cotton and ships. There was a problem with fishing rights in Canadian waters, a boundary dispute in Puget Sound between British Columbia and the United States and a request to pay for damages due to border raids of Irish-Americans who periodically tried to conquer Canada. By the way, I add this personal note to keep the record straight, while I am an Irish-American I had no part in any of those raids.

Fortunately a settlement was worked out. In 1871, in the Treaty of Washington, the countries agreed to arbitrate the claims. A five member commission of representatives from the United States, Great Britain, Italy, Switzerland and Brazil awarded the United States \$15,500,000 for the Alabama Claims. With this settled all the other issues were also finalized. The commission granted British subjects over two million dollars for damages suffered during the American Civil War and in the Canadian border raids. England also received a payment in return for extending American fishing privileges. The legal case was argued in Geneva, Switzerland, over a period of fifteen months and the resulting settlements were important in themselves and also as examples of peaceful adjustments of serious international differences. In addition, because the country was again a nation united, the future results of these adjustments provided benefits not only in the North, but also in the reunited South.

April Quiz

Q.1 Major Generals Abner Doubleday, Oliver O. Howard and Winfield Scott Hancock had one thing in common regarding their rank as Major Generals. Can you name the common element?

Q.2 Prior to the Battle of Antietam, General Lee's forces captured the town of Harpers Ferry, Virginia on September 15, 1862. This capture yielded the Confederates significant prizes. One of these prizes had a singular significance in what it was and what it represented throughout the war. Can you identify this singular significant prize?

Q.3 On June 17, 1861, 24 counties from this state voted to disavow the Confederacy and form a Unionist government, in effect, seceding from a secessionist state. In August, 1861 they created their new state and identified the state by a new name. This states new name was changed a second time, and on June 20, 1863 the state gained statehood into the United States with the name it carries today. In this three part question, name the (a.) secessionist state, (b.) the name the new state first identified itself as and finally (c.) the present name of the state?

April Meeting

Our April meeting will be on **Tuesday April 9**. Our meeting location is the Inn at Moselem Springs, meeting time is **6:30PM**. Members planning to attend the meeting must make their reservations and meal selections by **Wednesday, April 3**. To place a reservation please call **610-683-4391**. If you leave a message please speak clearly. You

can also order by e-mail, send to Mike Gabriel at gabriel@kutztown.edu. Please continue to cooperate by making your reservation by our cutoff date. Our meal selections for the April meeting will be **Ham Steak, Baked Ziti and Grilled Salmon**, our meal price remains at \$15.00

As noted previously our program will be presented by Dave Valuska and Tom Tate who will speak on Kernstown and Cedar Creek.

Miscellaneous Items

This item is designed as a point of clarification. In my March newsletter under Did You Know I wrote of the Fourth Corps of the Army of the Potomac, I stated the Fourth Corps had a brief history from March of 1862 thru August, 1862 and was then discontinued as an active corps in the Army of the Potomac, this is a fact. However, there was a Fourth Corps in the Federal Army of the Cumberland that was established in late 1863. I provide this clarification for I did not want any one to think no Fourth Corps existed in any Federal Army after August of 1862 in the Civil War. Now it's probable not to many gave any thought to this item, however, if any one did I hope this clarifies the issue.

Since we have some space in this months newsletter I thought it would be worth making note of something I came across following last months presentation by Ron Hawkins of Lieutenant General James Longstreet. The General who was treated with great contempt after the war throughout the South, was also the subject of criticisms by many talented writers. These critics have often portrayed Longstreet as a sulking and obstinate commander whose supposed insubordinate behavior at Gettysburg led to the Confederate defeat in this battle. While his performance during the battle was flawed, as were those of others, it could be said he was neither a hero or a villain at Gettysburg.

What I came across was a view of Longstreet written by Edwin C. Bearss who is one of the most respected Civil War scholars and writers. Mr. Bearss stated he was challenged by recent scholarly looks at the General by other noted writers, one such was Jeffery D. Wert, who spoke to our Round Table some months ago. Mr. Bearss went on to say he reassessed long held opinions about General Longstreet. This led to an appreciation of Longstreet's worth as a soldier who understood what the technological revolution in weaponry and its relation to tactics entailed. This resulted in his evolution as a battlefield tactician in advance of his time. This is high praise indeed, if Longstreet were with us today he would be very pleased by these comments, especially from a man with Bearss credentials.

If one agrees and supports Mr. Bearss assessment of the General it could help to understand Longstreet's concerns and views of the Confederate plans to attack the Union lines at Gettysburg. I thought this was an interesting view of Longstreet by Mr. Bearss and I felt it timely after last months program. Hope it was of interest to you.

See you at our April meeting!

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

MAY 2002

Round Table Business

Our April meeting was attended by 59 members and guest. Mike Gabriel opened our business meeting with final information regarding our field trip. Our trip is scheduled for June 15, trip cost will be \$65.00 per person. This includes our evening dinner meal at the Wayside Inn. Our trip will cover the Kernstown and Cedar Creek battlefields. There will be an attachment to the newsletter to be filled out by those planning on going on the trip. With 39 or 40 seats available on the bus it might be wise to get your seat reservation as soon as possible. Payment for the trip should accompany all reservations.

We again request any member who would like to be on our Board of Directors to contact Dave Valuska or any available board member as soon as possible. Please give this some consideration. If you would like information on serving on the board, before making a commitment, speak with Dave and he will be glad to help you.

We had the successful sale of our two Troiani prints at the April meeting. Sons of Erin sold for \$175.00 and Texans in the Cornfield sold for a tidy \$400.00. These two sales added \$575.00 to our preservation fund. The Round Table thanks all who made bids on the prints.

Jack Gurney provided us with an 1859 McClellan saddle used by 1st. Lieutenant Charles F. Brisbane who was an Assistant Surgeon to the Surgeon General of the Army of the Potomac. The saddle had with it a canteen cup, gray military blanket and a set of spurs as part of the overall artifacts available for our review. As always our thanks to Jack for coming through with interesting items for us to view.

Our April treasures report showed a balance of \$2,907.62, new income \$1,212.00, new expenses \$1,222.74, giving us a new balance of \$2,895.88.

Book Raffle / Preservation

Tom Tate reports this year has been noteworthy due to our Round Table commitment to battlefield preservation. We transferred \$1,800.00 from our general treasury into the preservation fund and spent and contributed \$3,311.00 to various preservation groups. At our April meeting you members purchased 129 book raffle tickets and spent another \$575.00 on the auction of the two Troiani prints. Together that raises our preservation fund to \$1,174.00. May will add to this fund. Thanks to all members for your support. At our May meeting we will vote on a recipient of a preservation award for this seasons campaign.

Thanks again go to a very supportive pair, Paul Foust and Peggy Reichardt, for donating *Chancellorsville, 1863*. This book is a new study of the battle and has a very impressive list of sources. It will be available at our May raffle along with the complete four volume set of *Battles and Leaders*. May is our last meeting of this campaign and we will raffle off a larger than usual number of books. Come with heavy pockets and pocketbooks and purchase a few extra tickets to improve your chances of winning.

Our friends at the Richmond Battlefield Association are just about finished getting organized and established and are on the verge of doing some serious preservation in the Richmond area. Mrs. Julie Krick, the president, wrote Tom a letter indicating they are close to making an important announcement. Tom will let us know as soon as he has more details.

Program Review

Our April program was a dual presentation by members Tom Tate and Dave Valuska. In preparation for our June field trip to Kernstown and Cedar Creek Tom and Dave provided a review of the battles at these two sites. Tom kicked off our program speaking on Kernstown. Utilizing a map Tom identified Kernstown as a small community of six or seven homes located on the Valley Turnpike, today's U.S. Route 11. He reviewed the movements of Federal and Confederate forces in the area and the activities of Colonel Turner Ashby's cavalry. On the night of March 22, 1862 Ashby was presented with information by Confederate Loyalist in Winchester, Virginia stating the Federals were not in strength in the area, this was erroneous information. General Jackson acting on this information on March 23, 1862 and making no further reconnaissance deployed for battle. The battle centered on three key locations, a wheat field northeast of the Kernstown crossroads intersection, Pritchard's Hill west of the Valley Turnpike and Sandy Ridge slightly northwest of Pritchard's Hill. Due to the mistaken information Jackson's 3,800 man division encountered 8,500 Federals commanded by Colonel Nathan Kimball. The Federal force stopped Jackson and then counterattacked turning Jackson's flank and forcing him to retreat. Estimated casualties were 590 Federal and 718 Confederate, a total of 1,308 for the battle.

Despite this Union victory and Jackson's mistakes the Federal authorities faced the fact of the Confederate threat in the Shenandoah Valley and directed substantial forces to the Valley. This deprived McClellan and his army these troops in his Peninsula Campaign. For the Confederates, Kernstown was a tactical defeat on the battlefield but a strategic victory due to holding the Federal forces in the Valley. Our thanks to Tom for this informative view on the Battle of Kernstown.

From Kernstown and Tom we move to Cedar Creek and Dave. Stating the importance of the Valley to both sides Dave identified it as a knife pointing at Washington and as the bread basket of the Confederacy. He went on to state the status of the Confederacy, at this time in the war, as poor. Lee needs the Valley, General Early's army prevented from capturing Washington was still at large and causing havoc in the area. Virtually all of the Valley was back in Confederate hands and mocking Federal efforts to retake it. Grant sent Sheridan with three Corps, the 6th, 8th and 19th, plus Cavalry to clear the Valley once and for all and defeat Early's army.

In August and September of 1864 a stand off exist, however, at 3rd Winchester Early is beaten badly. Sheridan attacks with the 8th Corps and has success, believing Early to be beaten by these attacks Sheridan leaves his army and goes to Washington thinking the fight is over. General Early believes the fight is not over and sets in motion a surprise counterattack on the morning of October 19, 1864. The attack is designed to flank the Federal left held by the 8th Corps. Three Confederate Divisions route the 8th and 19th Corps. By 10AM the Confederate attack has had much success. However, the Federal 6th Corps under General Ricketts holds on the Federal right for nearly two hours against Confederate attacks. General Horatio Wright, in command during Sheridan's absence,

resets the Federal lines and stabilizes the Federal front. Dave gives much credit to General Wright for his generalship in this battle and I believe he felt Wright deserved more credit than Sheridan for the Cedar Creek victory. There is probably much to support this view, I would, but Sheridan was popular with the press.

General Sheridan returns to the Valley and at 4PM counterattacks Early's forces with the 6th and 19th Corps. The Confederates are driven back and retreat to and thru Strasburg, Virginia. Dave explains Early's army is destroyed, Early blames his men for the defeat, as the one's who failed, not himself. What else would we expect from the mouth that roared. (The Editor's personal view). In this battle the forces engaged were approximately 31,945 Federals and 21,000 Confederates. The casualties 5,665 Federal and 2,910 Confederate. The Confederate defeat led to clearing the Valley of their influence and had much to do with Lincoln's reelection.

I felt Dave made an important comment in his presentation when he conveyed to us the importance of General officers in battle and in war in general. At Kernstown and Cedar Creek, Jackson and Wright made decisions that probably determined the outcome of these battles.

Our thanks to Dave on his presentation of the Battle of Cedar Creek. For those of us going on the June field trip these presentations give us a better understanding of the importance of these two battles and their place in Civil War history. Again thank you Tom and Dave.

Did You Know

It may be of interest for us to take a look at the resources available to both the North and South, just prior to the war, in 1861. The North had a definite superiority in human and material resources. The nineteen states remaining in the North, plus four non-seceding slave states had a total population of approximately 22 million. The South, with its eleven seceding states, had approximately nine million, but some three million of these were Negro slaves. Please understand these figures could be argued up and down. For the purpose of this article bear with me.

Because of this resource the North could place larger armies in the field. Complicating the calculation of Southern manpower was the presence of the slaves, who were not available for service to the Confederate military. However, slaves were vitally important to the South as producers of foodstuff for both military and civilian use. They also allowed most white men, of military age, in the South to take up arms by doing many of the tasks and work done by whites prior to the war. The population difference in men at arms had little effect on both sides until 1863. In this year the Confederate armies reached their peak in size, and then began to decline just as the Northern armies began to increase in size. By 1865 Federal troops in all theaters outnumbered the Confederates by about 5 to 1.

Let us now look at a comparison of other North and South resources at the beginning of the war. All of these categories give favorable approximate percentage advantages to the North. Railroad mileage 66% to 34%, wealth produced 75% to 25%, bank deposits 74% to 26%, farms 67% to 33% and factories 81% to 19%. The greatest factor and advantage held by the North was its capacity to produce large quantities of goods and food. Once the war started and progressed the North increased food and goods production at the same time Federal armies occupied and devastated parts of the South reducing her capacity to produce the needs of her armies and people. This led to great dependence

upon Europe for manufactured goods and other needs. Then came the Federal blockade, very damaging to the South.

The South did possess certain advantages, she was fighting on the defense, causing her manpower inferiority to seem less than what it actually was. The North had to move men and supplies to occupy the South, no small consideration. The South had an objective to fight for, independence, this appealed to her people. They could rally to repel the "invader." Lincoln on the other hand had to keep his people enthusiastic for the ideal of preserving the Union, as we know this had its high and low times. Finally, even if the Union quit the war, it would be as it was, an independent nation; however, if the South quit, it would have to return to the Union. Perhaps this was the South's greatest advantage and their reason for fighting as hard and as long as they did. She wanted to have her independence, and to be free from having to return to that Union. Of course we all today know the outcome of their struggle, but for a time in the early 1860's it was in doubt.

May Quiz

Q.1 This modest, congenial Union General had his ups and downs during the Civil War. After the war, he returned to business, served three terms as governor of Rhode Island before being elected to the U.S. Senate, and later became the first president of the National Rifle Association. Name him?

Q.2 On February 1, 1864 Congress passed a law restoring the rank of Lieutenant General in the United States Army. Who was the first officer given this rank after it was restored and who was the last officer to hold this rank?

Q.3 This Federal officer was 21 years of age and a nonprofessional soldier. He served on the staff of General Franz Sigel and then on the staffs of three heads of the Army of the Potomac---Burnside, Hooker and Meade. His father was an Admiral in the U.S. Navy. Wounded, with the loss of a leg, in a cavalry action in the aftermath of Gettysburg, he was killed in action on March 2, 1864 during a cavalry raid that was considered a dismal failure. Name this officer?

May Meeting

Our May meeting will be on **Tuesday May 14**. This will be the final meeting of this campaign, we will next meet in September. Meeting time is **6:30PM** at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Members planning to attend the meeting must make their reservations and meal selections by **Wednesday May 8**. Please be advised we have a new number to call to place your reservation, the number is **610-683-1533**. This is Dave Valuska's number, you may also e-mail your reservation to valuska@kutztown.edu. Please make your reservation by the cutoff date. Our meal selections for the May meeting will be **Shepard's Pie, Baked Manicotti and Baked Haddock**, meal price is \$15.00.

Our program for May takes us to the Western theater, our speakers are our own dynamic duo of Ron Rhein and Mike Gabriel. These gentlemen will speak on "the Emergence of Grant." Their talk will include comments on the battles of Belmont and Fort Donelson, so come one, come all, it should be a grand show.

See you all on May 14.