

Sept 2000 - May 2001

Campaign #

4

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table at Kutztown University September 2000

New Year and a New Home

Seventy four members and guests attended our first meeting of the 2000-2001 year. This was also our first meeting in our new home at the Golden Oaks Golf Club in Pricetown. It seems as though it were only yesterday that we gathered for our charter meeting and the beginning of the First Defenders on April 15, 1997. I believe that you would all agree we have accomplished a great deal since then and have a lot to look forward to in the coming year.

Ron Rhein conducted the business portion of the meeting. He announced that he and **Mike Gabriel** will speak in February 2001 and **Bob Shuman** in March, rather than the other way around. **Arlan Christ** gave a treasure's report and indicated that the round table has \$5,116.16, including the money in the Preservation Fund. The member voted to donate \$100 to both Cross Keys and Brandy Station, Virginia, through the Civil War Preservation Trust. This organization has recently made large purchases at both sites and now needs to pay for them. The members also suggested that the board look into transferring some of the money from the general fund into preservation to further support this important function. Members were also reminded to renew their memberships by **November 14**, or they will be dropped from the rolls to make room for those on the waiting list. Those wishing to renew should send the form to **Pat Christ** or

bring it to one of the meetings before the deadline.

Some discussion also ensued over next year's trip. The trip's length, location, and timing have yet to be determined. Because of hot weather in June, some suggestions to move the trip to April or May are being considered. Stay tuned for more information in the future on this topic. In addition to our annual trip, comments were entertained regarding a one-day November trip to Harrisburg's new Civil War exhibition. This possible trip will be discussed further in October.

Following the business meeting, we began our season's program with a solid debate on Union leadership at Gettysburg. Unlike last September when it was either Lee or Longstreet under review, this year we discussed the efforts and actions of a number of Union officers. Opening comments attempted to define whether the Union fought an offensive or defensive battle. There was a number of comments on this issue and no consensus agreed upon. One general area of controversy had to do with the actions of Major General Daniel Sickles. Should he have stayed on Cemetery Ridge or was he right to go forth to the Peach Orchard? This issue brought a lively debate from many members. All in all members gave high marks for most Union commanders. General George G. Meade, new to the job as army commander, received just praise for his leadership. Generals John Buford and Winfield Scott Hancock both did

outstanding work. It was good to hear the very strong praise for a man who is often overlooked, General Henry J. Hunt, the chief of artillery of the Army of the Potomac. As for disappointments, they were limited to Judson Kilpatrick, Sickles, and Henry Slocum, but even they could claim success. After all, their side won.

We could also speak and write at great length on all who deserve credit in the fight. However, Edwin Coddington's comment that "Union command won the battle," probably says it best. We can also recall George Pickett's famous statement after the war, "I think the Yankees had something to do with it." In this, Pickett not only gave credit to the Union commanders, but also to the men in the ranks who did the fighting. We can conclude our comments on this type of debate and be comfortable that it was interesting, educational, and should be continued as an annual event to kick off a new season.

Preservation

We began our new season in a new location and kicked it off well in many ways. You are helping to send us over the top once again in preservation funds. We raised \$158 at our September meeting. The support for our raffle has been so successful that I can announce a better pricing policy for raffle tickets. Single tickets will remain \$1 each, but \$3 will get you four tickets and therefore, four chances to win. For \$5 you receive seven tickets and seven chances to win a book of your choice. Our book inventory remains high thanks to the generous donations of our members and this keeps our costs low. Look for the book raffle table in our dining room at the Golden Oaks.

The members voted to send money from our unencumbered funds left over from last season to Cross Keys and to Brandy Station. The secretary was asked to write and learn just what acreage is to be acquired at Brandy Station since the old Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites purchased a good part of the field. I will keep you posted.

For those of you who missed our September meeting, I was able to report that the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, the organization who received the bulk of our preservation money this year, is just about to close a deal to buy 75 acres near Spotsylvania. It is called Myers Hill and was a prominent battlefield in the fighting that took place just after the Bloody Angle. Tom Tate.

October Meeting Planned

The First Defenders will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, **October 10** at 6:00 P.M. at the Golden Oaks Golf Club. **Colonel Len Fullencamp**, of the Army War College in Carlisle, will speak on "Gettysburg and the Strategic Situation, Spring-Summer, 1863." Members wishing to attend the program should make their reservations and meal selection by **Wednesday, October 4**, by calling 683-1533. If no one answers, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. The selections include pecan chicken breast with honey mustard sauce, stuffed shells with marinara sauce, and broiled flounder. The price is \$15.

If you make reservations, we must ask that you pay even if you are unable to attend because we have to pay for all dinners that we order. We also request that members make their reservations by the deadline. We hope

to see you all there for what should be a fascinating presentation.

Did You Know?

by Tony Reilly

In 1870, just after the Civil War, the Fifteenth Amendment to the US Constitution became the law of the land. The amendment guaranteed that no man could be denied the right to vote because of "race, color or previous condition of servitude." After 127 years, in 1997, Tennessee formally agreed to the amendment and the state house and senate voted to ratify it. Tennessee was the last state in the country to do this. The state's only comment after unanimous passage of the amendment was, "It's embarrassing it hasn't been done; let's get on with it." One might call it a bit of tardiness from the "Volunteer State."

Hugh Judson Kilpatrick never liked his baptismal name, which he considered effeminate. Upon entrance to West Point, he introduced himself as Judson. Busy admission clerks never checked his appointment document and, with the annoying first name now out of the way, he graduated in May 1861 as Judson Kilpatrick. Although he had led mounted men in every important action in the eastern theater of the war, he had a fear of being thought of or called a sissy, perhaps because of his first name. To overcome this fear, he drove his men and horses so furiously that he came to be known as "Kill Cavalry."

This little item for "Did You Know?" may be better stated as "Could You Believe?" At the 1860 Democratic National Convention in Charleston, South Carolina, a future union general, hated by everyone in the South during the war, voted fifty-seven times to nominate Jefferson Davis for President of the US. He was the lovable Yankee, Benjamin F. Butler.

Major General W.H.C. Whiting, William Henry Chase, was a division commander in the Confederate Army of Tennessee. Whiting was considered an odd character, perhaps not entirely stable mentally. He was also alternately brilliant, temperamental, and morose with leadership mysteries marked more by failure than success. Whiting was also greatly disliked by President Davis, who came close to having the general drummed out of the army. Despite these character issues, Whiting graduated first in his West Point class of 1845 and, in doing so, had set an academic record not equaled previously and which continued for fifty-eight years, until 1903. In this year, his academic record was excelled by Cadet Douglas MacArthur.

Though not West Point trained, Major General Patrick Cleburne, Confederate States of America, had previous military experience prior to the onset of the war. He served for several years in the peacetime British army, rising to the rank of corporal.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

October 2000

Round Table Business

Our October, 2000 Round Table meeting got under way with Mike Gabriel conducting the business portion of the meeting. Present membership lists 107 members, with a waiting list of 15 potential new members. Renewal for 2000, 2001 must be made by November 14. With a continued desired maximum of 100 for the Round Table, any openings under 100 will be offered to those on the waiting list after our 11-14 dead-line.

It was announced that members favor a two day battlefield trip and tour over the one day trip. The trip will continue to be in June as this month is more favorable to members than April or May. No decision as to where the trip will be has been finalized.

Arlan Christ gave the treasure's report of \$5,720.28 in the Round Table's account, with \$1,031.00 committed to the Preservation Fund.

It was announced that some Round Table hats and shirts are still available at \$6.00 per hat and \$25.00 per shirt. Shirt sizes may be limited, so check before you make a purchase.

Jack Gurney again provided and gave comments on a number of artifacts he brought to the meeting. Our thanks to Jack from all members for always coming through with interesting items to see and talk about.

Program Review

Our opening speaker for 2000-2001 season was Colonel Len Fullencamp of the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Colonel Fullencamp, a 30 year career officer, taught at West Point during his military service, but was not a graduate of West Point. He was a graduate of Dayton University, and obtained a Masters Degree from Rice University in Houston, Texas. I believe we would be safe in stating that Colonel Fullencamp's

Presentation, Gettysburg and the Strategic Situation, Spring-Summer 1863, was by far one of the best, if not the best, of presentations we have received since our Round Table's conception. Space does not permit a detailed review of the Colonel's talk, however, we can cover a few of his high points. He gave a review of strategy and tactics past and present and a definition of the difference of these issues. Regarding General Lee, he defined his strategy as that which put the Confederate Army in the best position and situation to gain the South's Grand Strategy of War, which was to employ military force to obtain objectives in support of the national policy of their government. In short, to gain Southern independence. To obtain this Lee employed a strategy of offence designed to have his own forces give occupation to the enemy at points he selected. Gettysburg was not a selected point as the Colonel stated, and we all know. Lee, shocked to find the Federal Army so close in June of 1863 due to poor intelligence, then flushed with the success of battle on July 1, 1863 decided to fight to gain a major victory and not give up what had been gained on July 1. Colonel Fullencamp supported Lee's strategy of attacking on July 2nd & 3rd, despite the resulting defeat of Lee's Army. Lee knew well that the war had to be won, before it reached a point that it could not be won. As to the Federals, the Colonel viewed Meade's strategy as to fight not to lose, simply by protecting Baltimore and Washington from falling to the Confederates. In his closing comments

Colonel Fullencamp believed that had the Confederate Army captured Harrisburg, cutting communications and supply lines to the west and deflating the will of the Northern people to continue the war due to the loss of a major Northern State Capitol the South may well have successfully obtained their Grand Strategy of the War, gaining Southern independence.

Book Raffle / Preservation

Tom Tate reported the members who attended our October meeting purchased 117 tickets and raised \$117.00 more for our preservation fund. Our current fund now stands at \$648.00. Our thanks go to Peggy Reichardt and Paul Faust for donating Allan Nevins four volume work, The War for the Union. This is a large item and will be on hand for our December meeting raffle.

The membership voted in September to contribute from our general treasury \$100.00 each to Brandy Station and to Cross Keys. While this money didn't come from the designated preservation funds it brings the total money our Roundtable has contributed to preservation work of all kinds to \$3,025.00. Congratulation!

I would like to add an additional item to Tom's report on preservation. We may all have read something on this already. On August 8th, 136 years after sinking in the Atlantic, the C.S.S. Hunley was raised to the surface. The vessel sank on February 17th, 1864, after a successful attack on the U.S.S. Housatonic. All 9 members of the crew were lost and officials expect to recover their remains during exploration of the vessel's contents. The preservation project of the vessel will take some seven years. After completion, the sub will go on permanent display at the Charleston History Museum. Historians hope to gain insight as to why the sub sank and to give proper full military burial to any remains found of the 9 sailors. This is a

Considerable archeological effort and the people responsible deserve great credit.

November Meeting

Our First Defenders next meeting will be held on Tuesday November, 14 at 6:00 P.M. at the ~~██████████~~. Our speaker of the evening will be Mr. David F. Bastian, his program topic Grant's Canal; the Union's Attempt to Bypass Vicksburg. It is about the two Union campaigns against Vicksburg and focuses on the efforts to divert the Mississippi River away from Vicksburg by digging a canal across the narrow bend opposite the town. Success in digging the canal would have led to control of the river. At this point we will leave the rest of the story to our speaker and give us much to look forward to at our meeting.

*Evergreen
Country
Club*

Members planning to attend the meeting should make their reservations and meal selections by Wednesday, November 8, by calling 610-683-1533. If no answer, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. Dinner selections include Saurbraten with spaetzle sweet and sour cabbage; Vegetable stir fry tossed with penne pasta; and Grilled salmon filet. The dinner price is \$15.00. If you make reservations, we ask that you pay even if you are unable to attend. The Roundtable must pay for all dinners that we order. **We request you please make your reservations by our November 8 deadline.** We look forward to seeing all of you as our 2000-2001 campaign continues to move forward.

A final comment. Why a Civil War Round Table? To have been there amidst the smoke, the noise, the confusion of battle would have been the ultimate experience. To be here now, reflecting back on what had been, is our consolation. As members of The First Defenders CWRT we are part of the reflecting back and the consolation we enjoy from it.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

November 2000

Round Table Business

Our November meeting found the Round Table at our second new home of the campaign. The Evergreen Country Club welcomed 73 members to this meeting. Following a welcome to our new location by Dr. Valuska, Ron Rhein conducted our business meeting. Our Round Table had 103 membership renewals by the November 14 deadline. We plan to keep our membership at a max of 111, this opens 8 slots to membership from our waiting list.

The Round Tables policy regarding guest was finalized. A member can bring a guest to a meeting, but not more than twice a year. A guest cannot bring another guest to a meeting.

Pat Christ gave our treasure's report. Previous balance was \$5,720.28, new income \$1,617.00, new expenses \$1,156.54 giving the Round Table a new balance of \$6,180.74 in the treasury. Our preservation balance is \$1,148.00 with \$500.00 encumbered to give to Cedar Mountain.

Ron Rhein again mentioned the possibility of a one day trip to the Harrisburg Civil War Museum. The membership had a positive reaction to this and it will be reviewed at a future meeting.

The most important item reviewed during the business meeting was our 2001 summer battlefield trip. A tabulation of member interest in sites for the trip showed the Peninsula, or as it is also know, Seven Days campaign was the most popular choice receiving 25 votes. In addition 83% of the voting members wanted a two day field trip. Ron provided 4 sets of two day dates for our consideration. These dates will be May 26&27; June 2&3; June 9&10; June 23&24. Pat Christ will provide ballots and we will have the opportunity to make our choices. Since our meeting Tom Tate has received information from the Park Service that

selection of trip dates ASAP will be important in our gaining the dates of choice plus assuring us access to an available guide. The first and second weekends in June may be questionable for the Park Service, however, the other dates should not be a problem if we select a date by our next meeting. This information is not to sway your vote just to let you know time is very important in making a choice. Therefore we must finalize our vote at the December meeting. Your help and cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

Program Review

Our speaker for our November meeting was David F. Bastian a graduate from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a degree in Civil Engineering. Mr. Bastian also holds a Diploma of Distinction from Delft University, Delft, Netherlands. A specialist in river engineering he is presently with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Our speakers topic Grant's Canal; The Union's Attempt to Bypass Vicksburg, reviewed the Union's two campaigns to nullify Vicksburg position of commercial importance and its strategic military location in connecting the east and west by railroad, the north and south thru water communications, plus the city's formidable natural defenses caused by the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River from points as high as 300 feet in some locations. Lincoln stated that "valuable as New Orleans will be to us, Vicksburg will be even more so". In the Union's first attempt, Bastian, reviewed Flag Officer David G. Farragut's spring campaign of 1862, covering his forces victories at New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Natchez where he encountered little opposition. Upon reaching Vicksburg, some 300 miles north of New Orleans, things changed. The

city did not fall despite heavy shelling by the Navy and a major battle on June 28, 1862 between Farragut's vessels and the batteries of Vicksburg. Grant's Canal the Union second effort against Vicksburg had actually started in 1862. it was however halted, after some progress, due to water level conditions and manpower limits hurt by sickness to the confiscated slaves pressed into service to assist in building the canal. Six months after the halt Grant revived the project and it thus gained his name. From January 1863 to March 1863 every effort was made to complete the canal, but mother nature and her heavy rains, the rising waters of the Mississippi, broke the dams holding back water that allowed the work of digging the canal, causing the flooding of the surrounding fields. Grant dubious about the project from the start, called it off and later wrote, "I let the work go on, believing employment was better than idleness for the men." Vicksburg known to its proud residents as the "Queen City of the Bluff" finally surrendered 14 months from the time Farragut first called on her to surrender. Mr. Bastian believed with proper planning and tools, the cutoff could have succeeded

Book Raffle / Preservation.

Members attending our November meeting purchased 124 raffle tickets and raised another \$124.00 for preservation. Because of the generous donations of books from the membership, our book offering inventory is high and there were no expenses to be charged against that \$124.00. That brings our unencumbered preservation fund to \$772.00.

The membership, upon a suggestion by the Board of Directors, made a motion to grant \$500.00 to Kernstown Battlefield Association from funds directly out of our general treasury. This group has assumed a debt for \$1,000,000 to purchase the Grim farm, site of the battle. This debt defines their dedication and concern to protect a largely unspoiled field of real historical importance.

Tom Tate noted our Round Table has contributed \$3,525.00 to preservation in one form or another since he has been keeping records, back to 1997-1998. He believes in these years to our present year our per capita

donations amount to about \$40.00 and that must be some kind of a record!

The Round Table received recognition from The Newsletter of the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust. in their summer 2000 issue, for our \$1,000.00 preservation check and our strong preservation efforts with our 100 membership ceiling. Our Berks County / Reading, Pa. area and our three year old Round Table was part of the Trust's recognition. We also received the heartfelt thanks of the Trust for our contribution.

The Civil War Library and Museum in Philadelphia may lose some of its artifacts to Harrisburg, Pa. or Richmond, Va. Because of cramped space, limited parking and its money and flow of visitors dwindling. The museum is only open three days a week due to these problems. A board meeting on December 13, of this year, will review the museum's future. The museum was founded in 1888 by former Civil War officers. Should the museum have to close it would be a great loss to Philadelphia and surrounding areas.

Something New

With this issue of our newsletter we introduce a new item, a quiz. To start with we will ask three questions. At our next meeting we will review the questions with those in attendance. Hopefully participation will be the order of the day. In January's newsletter we'll repeat the questions with the answers for those who could not make the previous meeting. We will then list January's questions and follow that procedure month to month.

Let's get started, and see how we do.

Q. Can you name the first state to abolish Slavery, and possibly the year it did so?

Q. Name the Admiral who made this famous statement and the battle in which he made it. "Damn the Torpedoes! Full speed ahead!"

Q. Name the three largest Confederate states and cities at the beginning of The Civil War?

There will be no pass or fail just participation. See you at the meeting.

DECEMBER MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday December, 12 at 6:30 P.M. at the Evergreen Country Club. As we have done in past December meetings our program this year will again feature songs popular during the Civil War as well as some old time favorites. I'm sure, in keeping with the holiday season, Christmas carols will add to our evening enjoyment and the opportunity to join in a sing along will be part of the program. Our evenings entertainment will be presented by Melodi A. Young and Evan Walker. Members are encouraged to wear period piece outfits.

Members planning to attend the meeting should make reservations and meal selections by Thursday, December 7, by calling 610-683-1533. If no answer, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. Dinner selections include Prime Rib, Orange Ruffly with dill sauce, and Stuffed Manicoti. We will also have cheese, vegetable, and hot hoerve d'uevers. The price for our Christmas meeting and program will be \$20.00. The Round Table request members pay for their meal reservation if you make a reservation and cannot make the meeting. We again request all dinner reservations be made by the December 7 deadline. We look forward to seeing all of you at this meeting.

This months Did You Know can be found on the opposite side of this page.

During the Civil War a word that was most familiar to all was "Yankee." Those of us today who study the war with great interest understand "Yankee" to mean men in blue, the Union, we who are native or inhabitant of the northern United States. A visit to Mr. Webster's great book confirms the definition and our understanding of this word. In thinking of this word I wondered about its origin, and was surprised to find that Webster states the origin to be unknown. However, the best hypothesis of "Yankee" comes from the Dutch name "Janke" a nick-name for Jan meaning John in English. The first modern senses of "Yankee" was found in 1758 as the British used it to define a New Englander. The British used the word as a derisive term for New Englanders and in 1784 they extended it to include all Americans. I guess they didn't like us. By the way the American words to describe the British in 1784 goes beyond "Red Coats" and can not be stated here due to mixed and unmixed readers. Getting back to "Yankee", following the Battle of Lexington in 1775 Americans began to dignify the word and it has remained with us ever since, and was especially significant in our Civil War. It is probable the Confederate use of "Yankee" was more to identify than to be derisive, as was the Union use of Reb, or Johnny Reb, was to identify than to be derisive. Again, this review of a possible origin is still an assumption with the hope it provides some fact to the words origin.

This being a presidential election year I thought we could take a look at the elections of 1860 and 1864 and review the results. In 1860 four parties had candidates for the office of President The Constitutional Union Party candidate John Bell, Northern Democratic Party candidate Stephen Douglas, Southern Democratic Party candidate John Breckinridge and Republican Party candidate Abraham Lincoln. The following results view the Popular and Electoral vote, percentage of vote and states carried by candidate.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Popular</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Electoral</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>States Carried</u>
John Bell	592,906	13	39	13	3
Stephen Douglas	1,382,713	29.5	12	4	2
John Breckinridge	848,356	18	72	24	11
Abraham Lincoln	1,865,593	39.5	180	59	18

In the year 1864 there were two parties with candidates for the office of President. The Democratic Party candidate, George McClellan and the Republican Party candidate, Abraham Lincoln. The results in 1864 as follows.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Popular</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Electoral</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>States Carried</u>
George McClellan	1,803,787	45	21	9	3
Abraham Lincoln	2,206,938	55	212	91	22

In 1860, 34 states voted, in 1864, 25 states voted. The 11 Confederate states, of course, did not vote in 1864. However, the new states of West Virginia and Nevada did vote in 1864. Of interest the states of Kentucky, Delaware and New Jersey voted against Lincoln in both election years.

Although this has nothing to do with elections, it has interest. Among its other distinctions the U.S.S. Monitor was the first warship to have flush toilets.

Membership Update

The following includes the waiting list for membership to First Defenders CWRT .

Robert Rohrbach
William & Rose Schappell
George Shoop
Dan Curran
Warren Ashburn
Michael Molusky
William Shaw
Thomas Sherwood
Scott DeLong
Mrs Greg Renninger
Christopher Schlegel
Dave Unger
Bruce Hoffman
Brian Geary
Roger Cotterill

We still have six openings to membership remaining. The first six names on the list have been contacted....if there is no response by those contacted we will continue to offer membership to interested individuals in the order that the requests were received.

If there are any additions or corrections to the waiting list please contact Pat Christ (610) 756-6768.

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2001 Field Trip Ballot

We will be concentrating on the Peninsula Campaign for our next field trip. We need your input concerning the dates that are most suitable to everyone. Please complete the following ballot form and return to: Pat Christ

332 W. Main Street
Kutztown, PA 19530

Please note....it has been brought to our attention that there is a problem with the first two weekends in June....the National Parks Department has other commitments and will not be able to provide us with the service they have in the past.

_____ May 26 - 27

_____ June 2 - 3

_____ June 8 - 9

_____ June 23 -24

December 15, 2000

Dear First Defenders Member,

At the December meeting the Board announced that it is **CANCELING** the January meeting. We need time to solidify a permanent meeting place for the round table and will resume our regular meeting schedule in February. You will receive the normal newsletter in late January detailing the December meeting and giving information about the February one. Because of this decision, we've rearranged the speakers for the remainder of the year:

Feb. 13: Dr. Ed Baldrige, "Thaddeus Stevens."

Mar. 13: Bob Shuman, "The Burning of Chambersburg."

Apr. 10: Dr. Samuel Watson, "How Did West Point Influence the Civil War?"

May 8: Bruce Stocking, "An Evening with General Hancock."

At the December meeting, the members selected **JUNE 23-24** as the dates for our overnight field trip to the Peninsula. We will give more details, including the price and tentative itinerary as it becomes available.

We thank you for understanding our decision to cancel the January meeting. It will help us in planning for what has been a very challenging year. The board wishes all members of the First Defenders a restful and peaceful holiday season. We will see you in February!!!

Seasons Greeting,

The Board of Directors

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

December 2008

Book Raffle/Preservation

The members bought 109 tickets at our December Christmas party meeting. Once again there were no expenses to charge against this income so all the money goes to our preservation fund. Despite the amount of money the membership voted to transfer to preservation, some \$2,646, the \$109 raised this month brings our current preservation fund up to \$619. Arlan Christ said he has forwarded the checks to the various groups except for South Mountain. We don't have the exact address for that group but will get it very soon. Fortunately there is nothing exceptionally pressing on the preservation front at this immediate time.

Thanks again to Peggy Reichardt and Paul Foust for donating the classic by Edward Stackpole, *From Cedar Mountain to Antietam*. This was an important campaign and this work is a solid account. Thanks to Bob Grim who secured a collection from an elderly woman for us. These books will be available to you in the following months. I also appreciate your suggestions for books to acquire. I keep an eye out for the ones you suggest and try to get them if at all possible. Price is a concern, but I do try to get the books you suggest.

The Roundtable banner that we discussed and tabled at the November meeting still must be approved by the membership. The work that the Kennedys have done in locating a vendor suggests that a descent banner of flag will run close to \$1,000. This is an expense that we must decide on. Thanks again for your continued support for preservation through your ticket purchases, book donations and suggestions. Tom Tate

Did You Know

The Philadelphia Brigade had a singularly ironic and unique history. This brigade fought throughout the Peninsula Campaign with the 2nd Corps. At Antietam it was in the West Woods along with Sedgwick's division and suffered some 550 casualties in 10 minutes. It was at Marye's Heights during Fredericksburg and at Gettysburg would win its greatest distinction on the 2nd and 3rd days of the battle. On July 3rd it was in the thick of things in repelling Pickett's charge at the Angle. It suffered 490 casualties in this battle. It participated in the Overland Campaign in 1864, fighting in the Wilderness, at Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor. With its ranks depleted in late 1864 the brigade was broken up and its remaining force funneled into other units. The irony of this brigade is the fact it was initially composed of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th California Regiments all of which were manned by Pennsylvania troops from Philadelphia. This aberration was due to Senator James McDougall from California and Senator Edward Baker from Oregon who desired to raise a contingent of troops to fight for California. Because the state was too far away to send troops, the regiments were raised in Philadelphia. Baker died fighting with the brigade at Ball's Bluff. The regiments then attained designations as Pennsylvania regiments with 1st California becoming the 71st Pennsylvania, 2nd California becoming 72nd Pennsylvania, 3rd California the 69th Pennsylvania, a regiment of soldiers of Irish decent., the men in this regiment wanting the same unit number as the all-Irish 69th New York. The 5th California became the 106th Pennsylvania. Like many other brigades, depleted by casualties it lost its distinctiveness when the 152nd New York joined the brigade prior to the Wilderness Campaign. To the best of my knowledge no soldier, other than Senator Baker, served with this well known unit who came from either California or Oregon.

January Quiz

Q.1 It was considered to be the most important event of the day, many would say of the war. The event took place on May 31, 1862 during the Peninsula Campaign at a place called Fair Oaks Station. Can you name the event and what followed the following day June 1, 1862?

Q.2 The Seven Days' Battle, fought during the Peninsula Campaign, was fought between June 25, and July 1, 1862. Names such as Beaver Dam Creek, Gaines's Mill, Savage's Station, Glendale and Malvern Hill are very familiar to us as locations where battles took place during these seven days. Can you give the names of the battle fought on the first day of the Seven Days Battle, as designated by both the Union and Confederate forces?

Q.3 "The former is too cautious and weak under grave responsibility, personally brave and energetic to a fault, he yet is wanting in moral firmness when pressed by heavy responsibility and is likely to be timid and resolute in action." Name the author of this statement and the person the statement is referring to?

January Meeting

Our January meeting will be held at 6:30 P.M. on **Tuesday, January 8**, at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Members planning to attend must make their reservations and meal selections by **Wednesday, January 2**. **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 January meeting include **Ham Steak, Baked Manicotti, and Baked Haddock**. 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 January program will be an open round table discussion on **THE COMMANDERS OF THE SEVEN DAYS**. We will discuss all the principal commanders, both North and South. Biographies on such figures as Lee, Jackson, and McClellan, among others, would all be useful to read. Stephen Sears' *To the Gates of Richmond* is also good. Hope to see a great turnout for the January meeting.

**The Round Table Board of Directors wishes you
all a very peaceful and joyous holiday season!!!!**

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table at Kutztown University January 2001

Round Table Set for Year

The board has had a difficult year finding a permanent meeting place for the round^{table}, but this has now been solved. The First Defenders will continue to meet at the Evergreen Country Club for the remainder of the year. The board is happy to announce this as it now allows us to focus our efforts on planning the summer field trip and continuing our preservation efforts. We thank the members for their continued support and understanding during this trying period.

Christmas Meeting

Seventy-five First Defenders attended the December meeting at the Evergreen Country Club. The meeting was highlighted by the performance of Melodie A. Young and Evan Walker. Dressed in period-piece clothing, Young and Walker serenaded the round table with many Civil War era songs. They concluded their program by singing Christmas carols and were accompanied by the members.

Prior to the musical program, **Ron Rhein** conducted a short business meeting. The member selected **June 23-24** as the dates for your overnight field trip to the Peninsula. We will give more details, including the price and itinerary as it becomes available. Ron also announced changes in this year's programs since the January meeting was canceled.

Feb. 13: Dr. Ed Baldrige, "Thaddeus Stevens."

Mar. 13: Bob Shuman, "The Burning of Chambersburg."

Apr. 10: Dr. Samuel Watson, "How Did West Point Influence the Civil War?"

May 8: Bruce Stocking, "An Evening with General Hancock."

The December meeting also featured a new item. **Tony Reilly** conducted a Civil War quiz, and we'll continue this at our February meeting. See below for the questions.

February Meeting Planned

The First Defenders will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, **February 13** at the Evergreen Country Club. **Dr. Ed Baldrige**, a retired History professor at Muhlenburg College, will speak about one the leading abolitionists in the United States Senate, Thaddeus Stevens. Members wishing to attend the program should make their reservations and meal selection by **Wednesday, February 7**, by calling 683-1533. If no one answers, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. The selections include Chicken Chesapeake, Stuffed Flounder, and Baked Cheese Lasagna. The price is \$15. Check-in begins at 6:00 P.M. and the meeting at 6:30.

If you make reservations, we must ask that you pay even if you are unable to attend because we have to pay for all dinners that we order. We also request that members make their reservations by the deadline. We hope to see you all there for what will certainly be an interesting presentation.

Civil War Quiz by Tony Reilly

December Questions and Answers

- Q#1 Can you name the first state to abolish Slavery, and possibly the year it did so?
A#1 Rhode Island, in 1774, two years before the Declaration of Independence. Many believe that it was Massachusetts, 1780.
- Q#2 Name the Admiral who made this famous statement and the battle in which he Made it. "Damn the Torpedoes! Full speed ahead!"
A#2 Admiral David G. Farragut, at the Battle of Mobile Bay, August 5, 1864.
- Q#3 Name the three largest Confederate states and cities at the beginning of the war?
A#3 Virginia 1,596,206 New Orleans 168,675
Tennessee 1,109,741 Charleston 40,578
Georgia 1,057,248 Richmond 37,910

January Questions

- Q#1 Commander Franklin Buchanan, Confederate States Navy, held a famous first position prior to the Civil War, can you name that position?
- Q#2 Name the three states where the most battles and engagements took place in the Civil War?
- Q#3 This could be a tough one. Lieutenant General James Ewell Brown Stuart is well known in Civil War history as "Jeb," as famous a nickname we have during the war. Do you know his nickname prior to the war? I suspect it was one he was not to fond of having.

Remember no pass or fail, just a little fun, so don't be afraid to take a guess even if your not sure.

DID YOU KNOW By Tony Reilly

Before he could be admitted to West Point in 1842 George B. McClellan required special permission from the Secretary of War. The reason, this aspiring young officer to be was only fifteen years old at the time.

During the Civil War about 6,500 Jewish men served in Union blue and perhaps 2,000 more in Confederate gray.

General Robert E. Lee's pay stub came to \$604.00 per month. Broken down it was \$301.00 base pay, \$100.00 as an army commander, \$32.00 fodder allowance for 4 horse rations a day, \$108.00 ration allowance for 12 rations a day and \$63.00 for seniority pay. Lee's seniority pay was based on \$9.00 a month for each five years of active duty, including his service in the United States Army.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

March 2001

Round Table Business

Our February meeting found our Civil War Round Table back on the campaign trail as 55 members and guest attended the meeting at the Evergreen Country Club. Mike Gabriel open our business meeting by introducing the names of our new members. The newsletter takes this opportunity, on behalf of the membership, to welcome each of the following to our Round Table, Paul Foust, Brian Christ, Robert Rohrbach, Ed Welch, Pauline Shuman, Bill Schappell and Rose Schappell. We were then advised our summer field trip will be on June 23rd. and 24th. and will be a tour of the battlefields covering the Peninsula Campaign. Tom Tate is looking for help from anyone who could serve on the trip committee. Tom announced we will have access to a guide, Randy Clever, for our tour. This is good news, for there was some question as to availability of a guide due to other commitments by the Park Services. Mike Gabriel gave a tentative list for next years programs, when we have a firm list of speakers and their programs we will publish them in the newsletter.

We have a Treasure's report of a 12-12-00 balance of \$5,883.82, new income \$1,611.00, new expenses \$2,016.90 giving the Round Table a new balance of \$5,477.92 as of 2-13-01. \$1,403.00 of the \$5,477.92 is committed to our preservation fund.

This special note under our business section. In a conversation with Pat Christ I received from her a welcome suggestion that we extend a special thank you to Jack Gurney from all members of our Round Table. From our first year meetings to the present Jack has always had something for us to take us back to the years of our Civil War, and his comments on the varied artifacts have been very insightful. For each meeting Jack takes the time to select items of interest, brings them, sets them up, provides information about them and

makes them available for us to review. I'm sure I can state on behalf of our Round Table that we extend to Jack our thanks and appreciation for his efforts and the many good things he has brought to us and helped to make each of our meetings a success. I hope each of us from time to time will thank Jack for his efforts and urge him to continue his fine contribution to our meetings and our Civil War knowledge.

Program Review

The speaker for our February meeting was Dr. Ed Baldrige a retired history professor from Muhlenberg College in Allentown Pa.. Dr. Baldrige's topic was Thaddeus Stevens, The Man and His Role in Reconstruction. The portrait Dr. Baldrige presented to us of Stevens certainly suggested he was a man of great talent, but one who was also a very difficult person to deal with. Born to a poor family in Vermont, Stevens was the only family member to have access to higher education, graduating from Dartmouth College in 1814 where, our speaker pointed out, the school was not happy to remember him as an alumnus. Stevens was a man of mixed personalities. He was controversial, eccentric, powerful, a womanizer, and a man with a harsh tongue with a great penchant for the sarcastic. In spite of this he was a fine lawyer, a wealthy landowner, a man with financial interest in businesses and a member of the United States House of Representatives from Pennsylvania. Stevens great passions were his interest in education and as an ardent abolitionist. Thaddeus Stevens was an outspoken Radical Republican throughout the Civil War and into reconstruction, who abhorred Andrew Johnson's leniency toward the South and his evident unconcern for the rights of blacks. Stevens pressed for laws to "revolutionize Southern institutions, habits, and manners". "These foundations", he said, "must be broken up and relaid, or all our blood and

treasure have been spent in vain." Stevens believed reconstruction was a congressional right, not the right of the executive branch. He was a powerful player in the impeachment of Johnson in the House and pushed for a Senate conviction. The Senate trial ended with Johnson's acquittal by one vote. Ten weeks after this trial Stevens died on August 11, 1868. A New York paper once stated that "Stevens death will be a moment for universal delight". Right or wrong, good or bad, Thaddeus Stevens left his mark on American history and on the Union he loved. Unfortunately his Union was hurt by some of his actions. This was a fine presentation by Dr. Baldrige, one we can talk about, smile about and remember.

Book Raffle / Preservation

The book raffle continues to be a success. We raised \$102.00 at the February meeting and had two books donated. Lowell and Lenore Bittner donated *Horse Soldiers, The Wilderness Campaign* was donated by the one who got away. Unfortunately Tom said he didn't copy the name of the donor. Our thanks to both contributors.

There are some new items under preservation. Hardly a month goes by without some major concern for battlefield preservation. Our friends at Kernstown are having trouble meeting their bank obligation of payments regarding their loan of \$1,000,000 to purchase the 300 acre Grim farm. They are asking for help from anyone who wishes to make a donation. Those caring to send a donation could make out the check to Kernstown Battlefield Association, P.O. Box 1327, Winchester, Virginia 22604. Another way to contribute is to attend their one day program in Winchester on Saturday, March 10, 2001. Registration at 8:30 a.m., the morning program will feature three speakers on battlefield leadership at the Kernstown battle on both the Confederate and Union sides. Following lunch, which is provided, a tour of the battlefield will take place until 4:00 p.m. when the program ends. The cost for the days activities is \$75.00 The program will be held at the school of pharmacy at the Winchester Hospital. Anyone wishing more information call Tom Tate at (610)-395-6418. One other

point, Bob Krick, an old friend of the Round Table will be the first presenter.

A new preservation group, like Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, is starting in the Richmond area. Young Bob Krick and his wife have taken on this project. More to follow, stay tuned.

March Meeting

Our First Defenders next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13th. at the Evergreen Country Club. Our speaker for the evening program will be Bob Shuman, a club member, he will speak on the topic of "The Burning of Chambersburg". On July 30, 1864, Brigadier General John McCausland, demanded a ransom from the town fathers in gold or greenbacks. When he did not receive it, he ordered the town burned. Bob's talk should bring us all the details on a subject we should be most interested in since this act of war brought the war close to home.

Members planning to attend the meeting should make their reservations and meal selections by, **Thursday March 8**, by calling **610-683-1533**. If no answer, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. Dinner selections include THAI VEGETABLES WITH JASINE SAUCE, NEW YORK STRIP STEAK AU POIVRE, CHICKEN PICATTA, all meals will include herb roasted red potatoes w brown gravy, rolls, butter, dessert and tea or coffee. Dinner price is \$15.00. If you make reservations, we ask that you pay even if you are unable to attend. The Round Table must pay for all dinners ordered. Please make reservations by the March 8 deadline. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the March meeting.

Up next--- Did You Know and our March Quiz.

DID YOU KNOW

By Tony Reilly

For those of us who live in Eastern Pennsylvania Major General John F. Reynolds was probably one of our favorite Generals of the Civil War. This item regarding General Reynolds should interest each of us. On June 27, 1862 at Gaines Mill, when the Federal front gave way after repeated Confederate attacks, Reynolds separated from his command during the battle was captured. This event led to an interesting request by the citizens of Fredericksburg, Virginia. When news of the capture of Reynolds reached Fredericksburg, the citizens of the city recalled a sixteen-day period early in the Peninsula Campaign when Reynolds was military governor of the city. Prominent citizens of Fredericksburg signed and directed to the Confederate Secretary of War, a petition stating in part: ... General Reynolds exhibited a determination to so conduct his military command here as to conserve and protect the personal rights and domestic comforts of the citizens and thus mitigate the evils and annoyances which are incident to such an occupation. Your own military experience will suggest to you how materially such conduct as this on the part of a commanding officer could avail in saving our citizens from countless ills which an unbridled and licentious soldiery might inflict upon a helpless population. We do feel that in as much as when we were prisoners in the hands of General Reynolds we received from him a treatment distinguished by a marked and considerate respect for our opinions and feelings, it becomes us to use our feeble influence in invoking for him, now a prisoner of our government, a treatment as kind and considerate as was extended by him to us. We therefore hope that he might be placed upon parole as soon as permissible.

I believe we could all agree that this was an extraordinary statement, request and compliment regarding an enemy officer of the Confederacy. It also greatly defines the character and soldiery conduct of General Reynolds.

With the help of the petition from the citizens of Fredericksburg General Reynolds was exchanged 47 days after his capture, on August 13, 1862. Eight days later he was in command of a division of Pennsylvania Reserves and back in the war.

During the war there were about 100,000 court-martials in the Union Army, or roughly one for every 28 men in service.

Despite its reputation as a hotbed of southernness in the pre-civil war era, only 627 of the 1,760 graduates of West Point, from 1802 through 1861, came from the eleven slave states of the Confederacy.

Our final item for this months Did You Know tells us that Thomas Jonathan Jackson entered West Point in 1842 who, when entering as a cadet, had the equivalent of a fourth grade education. Overcoming this initial handicap he graduated in 1846, 17th. in a class of 59. Not bad, not bad at all!

Please turn page for March quiz.

MARCH QUIZ

- Q.1** On the morning of July 2, 1863 during the Battle of Gettysburg, General Robert E. Lee directed an engineering officer on his staff to effect a reconnaissance of the Federal left flank, prior to a proposed attack by Major General James Longstreet's First Corps. Name the Staff Officer and his rank?
- Q.2** "Secession is nothing but revolution, we can anticipate no greater calamity for the country than a dissolution of the Union. The Constitution established a government, not a compact, which can only be dissolved by revolution, or the consent of all the people in convention assembled." Name the author of this quote?
- Q.3** During the Civil War many General officers, on both sides, had mounts (horses) killed under them during battle. Can you name the General officer who had the most mounts killed under him?

FEBRUARY QUIZ AND ANSWERS.

- Q.1** Commander Franklin Buchanan, Confederate States Navy, held a famous first position prior to the Civil War, can you name that position?
- A.1** He was the first Superintendent of the Naval Academy.
- Q.2** Name the three states where the most battles and engagements took place in the Civil War?
- A.2** Virginia 519, Tennessee 298, Missouri 244.
- Q.3** Lieutenant General James Ewell Brown Stuart is well known to those of us who study Civil War history as "Jeb", as famous a nickname we have during the war. Do you know his nickname prior to the war? One he was not fond of having.
- A.3** "Beauty"

WAR COMES TO CHAMBERSBURG

1859 --

Early June -- Isaac Smith (aka John Brown) rented a room from Mary (Mrs. Abram) Ritner at her boarding house on East King Street. He was with two men he identified as his sons. He said he was in the business of developing mines.

The "Secretary of War" in Brown's cabinet was a John Henrie Kagi. Known to Mrs. Ritner as a J. Henrie, he stayed from July through October while Mr. Smith came and went.

August 11 -- Fifteen boxes of "mining equipment" arrived via the Cumberland Valley Railroad and was stored in the warehouse of Oakes & Cauffman on North Main Street, in view of the Ritner boarding house. The boxes actually contained Sharps rifles and Maynard revolvers.

September 17 -- Another shipment of "equipment" arrived containing pikes for arming slaves.

August 19-21 -- Frederick Douglass was in town on a lecture tour. He contacted a local black barber named Henry Watson who arranged a meeting between Brown and Kagi and Douglass and a free black named Shields Green near a stone quarry in the southwestern part of town. Douglass did not accept Brown's invitation to join his project, but Greene did.

* * * * *

1862

October 9 -- J.E.B. Stuart leads 1800 rebel cavalrymen from the Shenandoah Valley on an expedition to Pennsylvania. They ride from Darkesville through Hedgesville to camp near McCoy's Farm this evening.

October 10 -- The raiders ride through Mercersburg to Chambersburg where they take what they can carry from the warehouses of the CVRR -- clothing, blankets, ammunition, guns, etc. -- and burn the remainder. Their mission includes the burning the CVRR bridge over the Conococheague near Scotland. They discovered that iron doesn't burn.

They continued east on what is now Route 30 to Gettysburg, then turned south and returned to Virginia at Point of Rocks south of Frederick. They completed a 130-mile ride around the Union army with the loss of one man wounded and three missing.

* * * * *

1863

✓ June 15 -- Alfred Jenkins cavalry brigade arrives in Chambersburg. He makes his headquarters at the Montgomery House on North Main Street. After some skirmishing and shifting back and forth, the main body of the Army of Northern Virginia begins to arrive.

June 22 -- Rodes's Division of Ewell's Corps arrives at Greencastle.

✓ June 24 -- Ewell arrives in Chambersburg and "registers" at the Franklin Hotel on the diamond.

* June 26 -- Heth's Division leads Hill's Corps in town and Lee arrives. The Commanding General eventually camps on the eastern outskirts of town in a woods recently named for George R. Messersmith (until recently known as "Shetter's Woods").

It was here on June 28 that Longstreet's scout -- Harrison -- arrived to tell the Confederates that the Federal Army of the Potomac was now north of that river.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

April 2001

Round Table Business

The First Defenders welcomed 60 members and guest to our March meeting at the Evergreen Country Club. Mike Gabriel opened a brief business meeting with comments on our June field trip. Hotel selection is being reviewed, the trip will emphasize The Seven Days campaign with some possible review of ground that was part of the 1864 campaign. Our guide will try to point out these locations and events, when possible, without fragmenting the main theme of our trip. We will be looking at possible pick up points in the Reading area for those going on the trip from Reading. This will offer these members a boarding location more convenient to them. Further information will be available at the April meeting.

Mike Gabriel asked that I make note in the newsletter that Carol Reardon has made a firm commitment to be our speaker in May 2002. While a distant year plus away from today this should give the Round Table something to look forward to in next years programs. Carol Reardon is a member of the Department of History at Pennsylvania State University and a noted historian, who has authored a number of books and essays in the fields of Civil War and military history.

Our Treasure's report showed a balance, on 2-13-01, of \$5,477.92, new income \$1,032.00, new expenses \$890.40 giving the Round Table a new balance of, on 3-13-01, \$5,619.52. Our preservation fund of \$1,505.00 is part of our general fund, leaving \$4,114.52 available money to our general fund.

Pat and Arlan Christ have new membership directories available from our last meeting, if you did not get one check with Pat or Arlan and they will help you.

Book Raffle / Preservation

The members purchased raffle tickets in the amount of \$103.00 at the March meeting, please remember all raffle dollars go to the preservation fund, so please help the program any way you can, we all benefit from the preservation of our national historic sites. As always, the Round Table extends its thanks to all members for past help and contributions. Lowell and Lenore Bittner called our attention to Aversboro Battlefield in North Carolina. They visited the area on a return trip from the south. They stated the area is rural enough at this time and could be protected before real encroachment takes place. This battle was a prelude to the battle of Bentonville, I'm sure Lowell and Lenore can provide information on the battle, Aversboro, if you have an interest in visiting the site, or questions about it.

I was able to provide Tom Tate with a list of 10 of the nation's Civil War battlefields most likely to be hurt by urban sprawl. This list was part of 384 sites studied by the Civil War Advisory Commission in 1993. That commission listed 50 sites with the most urgent need for preservation. The following 10 are considered to be the most endangered locations. Gettysburg, Pa.; Allatoona, Ga.; Brices Cross Roads, Miss.; Harper's Ferry, W. Va.; Loudoun Valley, Va.; Mansfield, La.; Raymond, Miss.; Stones River, Tenn.; and

The Wilderness, Va. One exception to urban sprawl, but in the top ten, is Fort Fisher, N.C., where the main threat is from hurricanes wearing down it's fragmented remains. A great deal of help has been provided to these and many other sites in past years, but this is a never ending fight that continues to need the help of all concerned. A June 1999 report indicated many states with battlefield sites are protecting half or less of their locations. Contributions from organizations such as our Round Table may not seem to mean a great deal due to the amount contributed. It is, however, very true that every dollar counts, and every dollar is most welcomed.

As we stated last month Kernstown continues to need help in meeting it's quarterly bank payments of \$20 K. A visit to the battlefield may help them. The park is open to visitors every Saturday 10a.m. to 4p.m., April through October, for directions take I 81 south to exit 309, just south of Winchester, Va. Go west on route 37 to Middle Road and turn right. The Grim farm and battlefield will be to your right and you will intersect route 11. Tom Tate and his wife Marilyn will attend a Central Virginia Battlefields Trust meeting May 5,6, and give us a report at our May meeting.

Tom requested a note be placed in the newsletter for member Mark Pflum to let Mark know Tom had something for him on artillery, since he couldn't make the March meeting he should check with Tom at the April meeting to see what he missed. ??? I don't know either, so will move right along.

Program Review

Our March program, "The Burning of Chambersburg" was presented by our speaker for the evening, our own fellow member, Bob Shuman. It could be said there are few people as qualified to present this talk as Mr. Shuman who was born and raised in Chambersburg, and resided there some thirty years. Bob is a graduate of Shippensburg State College with a B.S. in Education, and received a Masters in Education from Penn State University. Bob's presentation is a story of war, and what it can do to a town and it's people.

Early on the morning of July 30, 1864 some 800 plus Confederate cavalymen moved unopposed into the small prosperous farming and manufacturing town of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. On a hill west of town, presently know as Radio Hill, an additional 2,000 troops, plus artillery, waited in line of battle. The town was the headquarters of the Department of the Susquehanna, commanded by General Darius Couch, and had some 300 men in the area. These troops left the area prior to the arrival of the Confederate force. Reasons for their leaving may differ, but survival was high on the list.

The Confederates' 28 year-old commander, Brigadier General John McCausland, demanded a ransom from the town fathers: \$100,000 in gold or \$500,000 in greenbacks, and gave them 6 hours to pay. When he did not receive it, and he didn't wait 6 hours, he ordered the town burned. Chambersburg had felt the sting of war before, enduring two raids and temporary occupation, but that was mild compared to McCausland's ruthlessness. Some 65 to 70% of homes and businesses were destroyed, leaving 537 buildings in ruin and 2,500 of the towns 6,000 people homeless. Damage to the town was estimated at more than \$1.6 million. The Pennsylvania legislature granted \$900,000 in relief to the town, but some claims filed with the U.S. Government remained open for 120 years after the attack. Bob provided many slides attesting to the destruction of properties and many comments of the tribulations of the townspeople. The angry citizens

killed three Confederates; one resident died in the fire, and during the day three babies were born in the town.

The burning of Chambersburg brought the Confederates no military gain, nor was any intended. Jubal Early, who had conceived the raid, reported his sole purpose was retaliation for Union General David Hunter's destruction of civilian property in the Shenandoah Valley. McCausland's work was a vast contrast to another Confederate general who took his army through Chambersburg in 1863. "Some honorable traits were exhibited here," remembered a citizen of the 1863 occupation. War has many similarities in battles and places, and many differences depending on who, what, when and where. One thing it always has, it can be said it's a nasty business. Mr. Shuman brought this to all of us with his fine presentation on a town close to home, and as it seemed, a town always in harms way. Thank you Robert, from your fellow members at the Round Table.

Did You Know

One of the history of warfare's great practices was the awarding of prize money for capturing or destroying enemy vessels at sea. During the American Civil War both the U.S. Navy and the C.S. Navy followed and accepted this practice. While an ancient and accepted practice, it was in truth a legalized form of looting. Admiral David Dixon Porter had an elegant explanation of the way soldiers and sailors acquired a little extra on the side when he stated that "Armies loot, Navies take prizes." Nice for the Navy, had the Admiral been a General he may have reversed his words, nevertheless a form of legalized looting it was whether on land or at sea.

In awarding prizes, and its associated value, whatever was captured had to be divided among the personnel of the capturing vessel, or vessels, and their commanders according to rules. In the U.S. Navy, and probably the C.S. Navy, if the capturing vessel had superior firepower to its opponent, the Navy Pension Fund received half the value of the victimized ship and its cargo. If the firepower was less or equal all the loot went to the crew of the capturing vessel. In addition, any ship within signaling distance of the captured or destroyed vessel also had a right to share in the loot, as did the squadron commander, even if he was not present during the battle. Prize details were based on the various ranks of personnel. Value of a vessel was divided into "shares", based on known or presumed value of the ship and cargo. A "cabin boy" received a half-share, a common seaman a whole share and so on through the ranks of enlisted personnel. Officers, by rank, received multiple shares, but a ship captain and squadron commanders received a percentage of the gross value, which was usually a fifth of the total prize value. We are all familiar with the old military statement that "rank has its privileges" this view was very much the case in Civil War navies. In the Civil War 1,149 vessels were captured and sent to Admiralty courts by the Union Navy which, together with Congressional allocated prize money for destruction of certain Confederate ships, resulted in \$25 million being divided among officers and men of capturing vessels.

The U.S. Navy abandoned the awarding of prize money after the Spanish-American War, much to the regret of the officers and men who could recall their wartime windfalls of prize money. The many notable instances in the past of officers and men of successful ships making enormous prize hauls came to an end. This change sadden many an old salt.

Drill masters were in such short supply at the onset of the war that 13 year old cadets from places such as Virginia Military Institute were pressed into service to drill men old enough to be their fathers and grandfathers.

Union artillerymen fired about 5 million rounds of ammunition during the Civil War, nearly 40% of them in 1864.

Speaking of artillerymen, Robert E. Lee made this observation of his Chief of Artillery of the Army of Northern Virginia, Brigadier General Nelson Pendleton, "I do not say he is not competent, but from what I have seen of him I do not know what he is." This might have been the best thing said about Pendleton before, during or after the war. What an endorsement!!!

March Quiz and Answers

- Q.1** On the morning of July 2, 1863 during the Battle of Gettysburg, General Robert E. Lee directed an engineering officer on his staff to effect a reconnaissance of the Federal left flank, prior to a proposed attack by Major General James Longstreet's First Corps. Name the Staff Officer and his rank?
- A.1** Captain Samuel R. Johnston
- Q.2** "Secession is nothing but revolution, we can anticipate no greater calamity for the country than a dissolution of the Union. The Constitution established a government, not a compact, which can only be dissolved by revolution, or the consent of all the people in convention assembled." Name the author of this quote?
- A.2** Robert E. Lee
- Q.3** During the Civil War many General officers, on both sides, had mounts killed under them during battle. Can you name the General officer who had the most mounts killed under him?
- A.3** Nathan Bedford Forest (29)

April Quiz

- Q.1** Which of the following several states did the Emancipation Proclamation not apply To, and why not?
- a. Texas b. Florida c. Tennessee d. Arkansas
- Q.2** We are probably all familiar with the work of the C.S.S. Alabama, the most successful Confederate privateer, a ship that took sixty-nine prizes. Can you name the second most successful Confederate privateer and if possible the number of prizes it accounted for?
- Q.3** The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution was the first amendment introduced as law following the end of the Civil War, and the first amendment adopted since September 18, 1804. Can you answer any or all of these questions?
- a. When was the Amendment adopted?
- b. What did the Amendment propose and establish?
- c. What did the original 13th. Amendment, passed by Congress in 1860, but not voted upon by the states, propose?

We again suggest everyone of our members get involved with our quiz sessions. If any one has anything to add to a question or answer please let us hear from you. We can all gain information and insight from any and all comments made at our meetings. So if you have something to add jump into the discussion, right or wrong, this is what our Round

Table should be all about, a round table for all members, not just a few. We don't have to be historians to give an opinion, I'm certainly not, but I'm having fun with the quiz, and I'm learning. So pitch in when you can, and we'll all have some fun.

April Meeting

The First Defenders will next meet on Tuesday, April 10th. at the Evergreen Country Club. Our speaker for the evening program will be Professor Samuel Watson of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Topic for the evening talk will be West Point's role and influence in the American Civil War. This should be a presentation for all of us to look forward to, for in the most part it was the men from West Point who commanded the armies on both sides. It is fair to say that their contributions had much to do with how the war was fought, and how it was won and lost.

Members planning to attend the meeting should make their reservations and meal selections by, **Thursday April 5**, by calling **610-683-1533**. If no answer, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. Dinner selections include SMOKED HAM WITH JAMESON GLAZE; BROILED SALMON WITH DILL; MANICOTTI FLOURINTINE, dinner price is \$15.00. We ask that all reservations made be paid for even if you are unable to attend, the Round Table must pay for all dinners ordered. Please make your reservations by the April 5 deadline. Spring is here, the weather is improving, come on out and join friends and members of your Round Table for an enjoyable evening. Look forward to seeing all of you.

A Final Thought

I came across this brief poem some time ago, set it aside and recently found it again. I thought you might like it, it speaks of our flag and the men and women who have served under it. The poem is titled "The Soldier" and was written by Father Dennis Edward O'Brien, United States Marine Corps.

"It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protestor to burn the flag."

See you April 10.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

May 2001

Round Table Business

Our April meeting welcomed 68 members and guest to the Evergreen Country Club. Our business meeting provided information relative to our June 23rd and 24th field trip. We will be utilizing a Bieber Bus Company charter leaving on Saturday morning the 23rd. The bus will have a pick up location in Kutztown and a location in Reading. The Reading pick up location will be at Broadcasting Square Mall. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn Airport in the Richmond, Virginia area. Those of us going on the trip should bring our own lunch for Saturday, June 23. The evening meal will be part of the trip package. Trip cost is \$130.00 per single and \$250.00 for double room. More detailed information for the trip will be sent to those who are going sometime in early June.

Our Treasure's report showed a balance, on 3-13-01, of \$5,619.52. New income \$1,048.00, new expenses \$1,052.03 giving the Round Table a new balance of \$5,615.49 on 4-10-01.

A final business note, we have a change of address and telephone number for one of our membership. Please add this correction to your new membership directory.

Margaret Key

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Book Raffle / Preservation

We raised \$128.00 in book raffle tickets at our April meeting. This was an increase of \$25.00 over the previous month. Good work and thank you! Our present preservation fund is \$1,736.00 and includes the April ticket money. From the non-encumbered money in our preservation fund we can meet the goals of the membership. These goals were identified and voted on at the April meeting. Two motions were made and accepted; one to contribute another \$500.00 to the Kernstown Battlefield Association to help those people meet their quarterly bank payment for the purchase of the Grim farm. The second motion was to award the newly formed Richmond Battlefields Association \$500.00 to help it get on its feet and begin doing the very necessary work of preserving the fields around Richmond. This will be in keeping with our past practice of donating to the areas of our annual field trip.

We want to thank three of our members in particular for their book donations. Charlie Trafford gave us David Donald's *Lincoln*, Jeffry Wert's biography of General Longstreet and a West Point Civil War Atlas. Peggy Reichardt donated *Grant Takes Command* and Ira Boyer gave us *Eye of the Storm*. Look for these books as well as others that will be raffled in May. We will have a larger than usual selection in May with a larger number of books to be awarded.

Here is a follow up report on the excavation work on the Confederate submarine Hunley. A skull was found inside the submarine amid artifacts and other crew remains in the sediment filled sub. So far scientist have uncovered remains from six of the nine-man

crew. A bellows, used to draw fresh air through the snorkel tubes has also been found. This device could help researchers reconstruct the doomed sub's final minutes. What ever clues it provides to the process of the ships sinking, the sinking seems to have occurred very quickly. The remains of the six crewmen found so far have been located by the propeller cranks they were working. Researchers do not think there was any type scramble to get out of the sub, believing the men accepted their fate.

If you wish to support State Representative Harry Readshaw's work on the Gettysburg Monuments Project by purchasing a copy of the Guide To Pennsylvania Troops At Gettysburg the book cost is \$17.95 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. Write to him with your request at Room 122 South Office Bldg., Harrisburg, Pa. 17120, or call 717-783-0411 for ordering information.

Program Review

Samuel J. Watson, Assistant Professor, Department of History, United States Military Academy was the speaker at our April meeting. Mr. Watson's presentation spoke of the influence of West Point on war. I suspect that each of us who were present at our meeting and heard the presentation may well have taken something different, regarding the topic, from Professor Watson's words. Since 92% of the graduates of West Point, prior to the Civil War, served in the war on both sides it is easy to assume that they had a major impact on the tactics and strategies employed in the war, and a very large leadership contribution at all levels of command. We know this from our own reading and studies of the war. However, in listening to the words of Mr. Watson, I came away with the feeling West Point did not have a major impact on training officers in the fields of tactics and strategy. I believe he made the comment early in his talk that the influence was "less and different than we think". If I understood what he said West Point was the best school in the country, perhaps the world, but not as a military school, but as an engineering school. This engineering study did include military engineering, such as building forts, intrenchments, bridges, and rail lines associated with military objectives. He pointed out that the school spent 55% of its training on engineering studies, but these studies represented 70% of a cadet's grade. Military exercise represented only 14% of a cadet's grade.

The schools military training did involve the study of artillery, in terms of ordinance and equipment. Infantry in terms of drill, such as marching and the manual of arms, and a limited view of tactics in, as he stated, abstract or theoretical problems as opposed to more likely practical problems. He made the point that drill was an important level of study and West Point excelled in these instructions. He continued by stating "drill was Lieutenants work", and he added "West Point was not a school to create Generals". He felt strongly that the American armies have all been well trained in drill and this led to a very disciplined army.

Upon graduation from West Point these young officers gained the specifics of military studies and requirements through attendance at artillery and infantry schools, by reading history and through the age old factor of experience while on the job. Professor Watson gave additional comments on the effect the practices of Napoleon, the teachings of Jomini, the British and French armies military leaders and schools had on our American programs and training. He spoke of how the advancement of weaponry effected greatly the strategy, tactics and the art of fighting battles. All this he concluded was part of the training of military officers. One of his final comments that I found most interesting was

that the art of war is policy not strategy. Policy being those factors and issues designed to obtain the objectives of the National government. This tenet, or doctrine if you prefer, may well be the most important instruction and training provided at West Point for future officers prior to, during and after the Civil War. Their understanding of this would have much to do on what the influence of West Point would be on war.

What then were the major influences of West Point on the Civil War. Let us try these points, you may agree or disagree, or both, The men of West Point provided first rate troop training in drill and formations. A strong sense of supporting the nation, such as duty, honor, country, patriotism. They were good managers and administrators with strong organizing skills. They provided a foundation for a military future for the country, not only in engineering, but in the early stages of strategy, tactics and weaponry. Finally, the culture as an officer, representing leadership, respect and knowledge all things expected of a military officer. These contributions and influences all had positive effects on the war.

Professor Watson's presentation is what I would call a heavy topic, for he covered many items in speaking of West Point and its influence on war. As I stated early in this review we may each have taken something different from the talk. This review is my views on what I heard and understood, I hope they are reasonable, and reasonably close to yours.

Did You Know

Mary Edwards Walker, one of the nations 1.8 million women veterans is the only woman to earn the Medal of Honor. Mary, born in 1832 in the town of Oswego, New York was one of six children. Her father, a country doctor, was a free thinking participant of reform movements and head of an abolitionist family. Following in his footsteps she was an early enthusiast for Women's Rights. In 1855 Mary, the only woman in her class, graduated from Syracuse Medical College, the nations first medical school and one which accepted women and men on an equal basis, as the second woman to graduate from a medical school in the United States. She graduated at age 21 after three 13-week semesters of medical training which she paid \$55.00 each for. After a floundering medical practice, because she was a women, and a marriage of 13 years that failed, the Civil War broke out. Refused a commission as a medical officer, because of her sex, she volunteered and served as an acting assistant surgeon, the first female surgeon in the U. S. Army. She worked as an unpaid volunteer at the U. S. Patent Office Hospital in Washington and later as a field surgeon near Union front lines for two years that included the Battle of 1st. Bull Run and Fredericksburg. In September 1863, General George Thomas accepted her as assistant surgeon in the Army of the Cumberland and assigned her to the 52nd. Ohio Infantry. She did field work following the Battle of Chickamauga and served as a spy when crossing Confederate lines to treat civilians. While treating a Confederate soldier she was taken prisoner in 1864, captured near Tunnel Hill, Georgia, and imprisoned at the Thunder Prison in Richmond for four months until exchanged. Although returned to the 52nd. Ohio she finished her service practice at a Louisville female prison for female prisoners and an orphan's asylum in Tennessee. She was paid \$766.16 for her wartime service, with a monthly pension of \$8.50, later raised to \$20.00, but still less than some widows pensions. On November 11, 1865, President Johnson signed a bill to present Dr. Walker the Medal of Honor for meritorious service, to recognize her contributions to the war effort, but the government still would not award

her an army commission. After the war she became a writer and lecturer, continuing to fight for women's rights and health and temperance issues. In June 1982 a 20 cent stamp was issued in her honor and for all her accomplishments. She died in her hometown of Oswego in February 1919 at the age of 87. She died just months before the 20th. . Amendment giving women the right to vote.

In 1917 the Medal of Honor was taken away from 910 awardees including Mary Walker. This was done when Congress revised the standards for awarding the medal to include only actual combat with an enemy. She refused to give it back and wore it every day until her death. On June 10, 1977 President Carter restored Dr. Walker's medal at the request of an army board, again for her gallantry, self-sacrifice, patriotism and loyalty to her country. She was a hero, without a doubt. Wow, what a gal!

April Quiz and Answers

Q.1 Which of the following several states did the Emancipation Proclamation not apply to, and why not? a.Texas b.Florida c.Tennessee d.Arkansas

A.1 c.Tennessee State was occupied by Union forces when proclamation issued.

Q.2 We are all familiar with the work of C.S.S. Alabama the most successful Confederate privateer, a ship that took sixty-nine prizes. Can you name the second most successful Confederate privateer and if possible the number of prizes it accounted for?

A.2 C.S.S. Florida – 37 prizes

Q.3 The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution was the first amendment introduced as law following the end of the Civil War, and the first amendment adopted since September 18, 1804. Can you answer any or all of these questions?

- a. When was the amendment adopted?
- b. What did the amendment propose?
- c. What did the original 13th. Amendment, passed by Congress in 1860, but not voted upon by the states, propose?

A.3 a. Adopted 12-18-1865
b. Abolished slavery
c. Guaranteed slavery

May Quiz

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, she feared capture when a Federal vessel approached off the coast of North Carolina. When the Condor ran ashore, she took to a rowboat with two companions, but lost her life when heavy seas sent the rowboat to the bottom as it came close to shore. Name this spy?

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?

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 U.S. Supreme Court. She was married to a millionaire from Rhode Island. Can you give her maiden and married names?

Q.4 The reduction of Island #10 in the Mississippi River in 1862 was credited to Commodore Foote and his flotilla. What army commander, however, was promoted to

Major General as a result of quick thinking and drive in this battle? His rising star would soon fizzle!

Q.5 During the war, the Confederacy raised a number of her sons to the rank of FULL GENERAL. Two such officers were R.E. Lee and Braxton Bragg. Can you name any or all of the remaining officers who reached this rank?

I made the comment, and commitment, during our last meeting that this months quiz would be ladies night. With this in mind we will give our lady members first crack at the quiz. Since our first three questions have to do with women of the Civil War, they should cut through these questions like a hot knife through butter. Right ladies, now don't let me down!

Our last two questions were sent to me by fellow member , Henry Miller, he sent me some others which I will try to use in the future. My thanks to Henry for his interest and help. Henry and I had some discussion on question #5, the number of Generals and their names was the issue, hopefully the membership can help us with their opinions.

May Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 8th. at Evergreen Country Club. Members planning to attend the meeting should make their reservations and meal selections by, **Thursday May 3rd**. by calling **610-683-1533**. If no answer, please leave a message on the machine. Dinner selections include RED SNAPPER WITH ROASTED RED PEPPER CREAM SAUCE; EGG PLANT WITH SPAGHETTI MARINARA; LAMB CHOPS WITH ROSEMARY AND GARLIC SAUCE; each meal will have dill baby carrots, wild rice blend plus salad, rolls, desert and coffee, or tea if requested. Dinner price is \$15.00. Again we ask if reservations are made please pay for them even if you cannot attend. This being our last meeting of this campaign, except for our trip, we look forward to a very good turnout. We have a fine program scheduled for this meeting, our speaker will be Mr. Bruce Stocking, a Historian for the W.S. Hancock Society, he will present an in-costume program titled, "An Evening with General Hancock." It should be a great talk on one of the really key figures in the Army of the Potomac. I believe we could all agree that General Hancock was one of the better, and more accomplished, commanders in the Federal army, especially as commander of the Union 2nd. Corps. This should be a most enjoyable evening so come on out and join with fellow members of your Round Table, it will be a fitting way to end our season.