

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table at Kutztown University September 1999

Lee and Longstreet Debated

Sixty-four First Defender members kicked off the 1999-2000 season with a round table discussion on Robert E. Lee and James Longstreet at Gettysburg. Dave Valuska made opening remarks and served as moderator for what proved to be a spirited debate. Numerous members expressed their opinions on which general bore the most responsibility for the Confederate defeat in July 1863.

Approximately half of those who spoke blamed Longstreet, who wanted to fight a defensive battle in the North. They claimed that he was slow in getting his men into position on the second day and did not launch his attack until nearly 4:00 P.M. This may have prevented the South from achieving a decisive victory. Furthermore, During Pickett's Charge, Longstreet failed to coordinate reinforcements to support the main Southern assault. Other members placed the blame squarely on Lee. He chose to fight at Gettysburg, issued discretionary orders which allowed his subordinates a great deal of leeway, and assumed the tactical offensive, despite the Union's strong defensive position.

In the end, the members were unable to come to a consensus on which Southern general was most responsible for the defeat. Still, they all agreed that Northern soldiers had much to do with it. At Gettysburg, Union troops bravely and stubbornly repelled repeated Confederate assaults, and thus won the battle for themselves. All the members also agreed that the discussion was both educational and enjoyable, and should become an annual event.

Prior to the round table debate, Mike Gabriel conducted a short business meeting. State Representative **Thomas R. Caltagirone** spoke on the preservation of Pennsylvania monuments at Gettysburg. He also accepted a \$250 check from our Preservation Fund to support this worthy project. Rep. Caltagirone was so impressed with our organization that he asked to become a member and the board immediately approved.

Another item addressed at the business meeting was membership renewal. First Defenders wishing to maintain their memberships should return the renewal form and a \$15 check by **NOVEMBER 9**. The check should be made payable to **THE FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT** and sent to **Arlan Christ, 332 West Main Street, Kutztown, PA 19530**. Any member who hasn't renewed by November 9 will be dropped from the rolls and new members will be admitted from the waiting list. The members also discussed next summer's trip and will vote to determine whether it should be one or two days, and where we should go. Mike also made an appeal for volunteers to write book reviews or short articles for upcoming newsletters. The members also approved a fund-raising activity for the Preservation Fund proposed by Arlan Christ. For more information, see the below article or contact Arlan.

Auction of Fine Art Limited Edition Prints

I will make available four prints for auction at the October and November meetings. The proceeds over and above my cost will go to our Preservation Fund. These fine art prints are not framed, but will

be protected by shrink wrapping. The prints to be auctioned are:

A) **"Raid on the L & N"** by John Paul Strain. Captain John Hunt Morgan, Winter, 1861-1862.

B) **"Imperishable Glory"** by Dale Gallon. July 3, 1863; 11th Mississippi Volunteer Infantry at Pickett's Charge.

C) **"Old Jubilee"** by John Paul Strain. Spring Campaign, 1864; Gen. Jubal Early.

D) **"Loneliness of Command"** by Mort Kunstler. Robert E. Lee -- Release date, January, 1997.

These prints retail for at least \$200.

A starting bid of \$150 is required or I will retain ownership of the print. Bring your checkbooks!!! Arlan Christ.

Book Raffle/Preservation

It was "Ladies Night" as far as our raffle winners were concerned at the September Roundtable meeting. Four of the five winners were women. Thanks go to Linda Zeiber for donating Bevin Alexander's book *Robert E. Lee's Civil War*. That brings our book inventory twenty books to be raffled for this season. With your help and support we raised another \$113 for our preservation efforts. To date we have awarded \$1,325. Not bad for an organization just beginning its third year.

I'd like to share a thought with you which was made at our June trip to Fredericksburg, VA. Bob Krick was one of our dinner guests and as chief historian of the Fredericksburg-Spottsylvania Park he has been active in preservation work since the beginning. He told us that \$35 of preservation money buys an area about the size of a restaurant dining area, or just about the size area where we meet at Moselem Springs. This may give you a better idea of what our donations mean to the preservation movement.

PA Monuments

The 46th PA Voluntary Infantry contained troops from Berks County, along with soldiers from Pittsburgh, and Dauphin, Luzerne, Mifflin, Northampton and Potter Counties. Under the command of Colonel James L. Selfridge, the regiment mustered October 31, 1861. At Gettysburg it was part of the first brigade, first division of the Twelfth Corps.

This monument needs \$1,350 for restoration and carries a \$4,000 endowment.

October Meeting

The First Defenders will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, **October 12**, at the Moselem Springs Inn. Registration begins at 6:00 and the meeting at 6:30 P.M. Scott Washburn will present a program entitled "Civil War Infantry Tactics." Members wishing to attend the dinner should make their reservations and meal selection by **Wednesday, October 6**, by calling 683-1533. If no one answers, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. The selections include **catch of the day, vegetable lasagna, and chopped sirloin**. 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**. Moselem Springs Inn needs a lead time of several days to order enough dinners.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table at Kutztown University October 1999

Infantry Tactics Discussed

Seventy-one First Defender members and guests attended the October meeting and heard **Scott Washburn** present a provocative and thought-provoking talk on Civil War infantry tactics. Scott, an architect who works at Temple University, has a Master's Degree in American History and is an avid reenactor. His talk is the result of many years of thought, discussion, and research on how Civil War armies fought. Scott opened his presentation by tracing the origins of the regiment as the main fighting unit to several hundred years before the Civil War. He then argued that linear tactics were a logical method of fighting, even in the age of the rifled musket, despite popular beliefs to the contrary. Scott noted that such formations provided the best way for men to deploy quickly from columns to lines. Long lines of infantry were also the best way for officers to maintain command and control over the volunteer regiments they led. Scott said that the Civil War had some aspects of being the first modern war, with its use of railroads, telegraphs, and fairly advanced weaponry. Still, it had more in common with the Napoleonic era than with the Franco-Prussian War of the 1870s, which he believed was a stronger contender for being considered the first modern conflict.

Prior to Scott's presentation, **Mike Gabriel** conducted a short business meeting. The members will be

asked to vote this month on whether they want to go on a one- or two-day field trip next summer. Once that has been decided, members will vote on a destination. Mike also reminded those attending that **NOVEMBER 9** is the last day to renew memberships. First Defenders wishing to maintain their memberships should return the renewal form and a \$15 check to **Arlan Christ, 332 West Main Street, Kutztown, PA 19530**. The check should be made payable to **THE FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT**. Any member who hasn't renewed by November 9 will be dropped from the rolls and new members will be admitted from the waiting list. Eighty members have renewed as of October 12, and we hope the rest do too. Jack Gurney also participated in the meeting by bringing an interesting collection of Civil War era military hats. Thanks again to Jack for faithfully sharing items from his extensive personal collection with the First Defenders.

During the meeting, **Dave Valuska** announced that the State of Pennsylvania is selling commemorative license plates to raise money to restore the Pennsylvania Monument at Gettysburg. The license plate is blue and gold with the silhouette of the Monument on it. Each plate costs \$20 with the proceeds going to preservation efforts. Any members interested in purchasing one should call Dave at (610) 683-1533 and leave a message.

Book Raffle/Preservation

Between the regular raffle and the print auction we raised another \$146 for Civil War preservation. Thank you for your continued support. Two more books were donated by the members. Frequent contributor Peggy Reichart donated *Walking to Cold Mountain*, a well illustrated Civil War journey. Bill Remaley gave us *The Photographic History of the Civil War*. It is a large book complete with contemporary text. Both these books will be available to you next month.

Also for you selection will be: *The Congressman Who Got away with Murder*, an account of Daniel Sickles; Bruce Catton's *The Civil War; Lincoln's Little War: How his Carefully Crafted Plans Went Astray*, by Webb Garrison. If those aren't of interest there also will be: *One Gallant Rush*, the story of the Mass. 54th Infantry and finally Gregory J. W. Urwin's *Custer Victorious*. Five books will be raffled.

PA Monuments

Another Pennsylvania regiment with a monument at Gettysburg that had troops from Berks County was the 93rd. Made up of soldiers recruited from Lebanon, Berks, Clinton, Centre, Montour, Montgomery and Dauphin Counties, the 93rd, under command of Major John I. Nevin (1819 -- 1892) was mustered in on October 28, 1861. At Gettysburg it was part of the VI Corps, 3rd Division, 3rd Brigade. The men from Berks County were known as the Union Zouaves and the Coleman Rifles.

The 93rd has two monuments at Gettysburg; one on south Sedgwick Avenue and the second is located in the field north of the Valley of Death. Maintenance is \$430 for the first; \$1,470

for the second. The endowment amounts are \$2,000 and \$4,000 respectively.

Print Auction

I want to thank the two "high bidders" for their purchases of the prints that were sold at the October meeting. We raised \$70 for the Preservation Fund. The two prints offered for the November meeting will be:

A) "Old Jubilee" by John Paul Strain. Spring Campaign, 1864; Gen. Jubal Early. This is a recent 1999 release, issued at \$200.

D) "Loneliness of Command" by Mort Kunstler. Robert E. Lee -- Release date, January, 1997, with a value on the secondary markets of \$200.

November Meeting

The First Defenders will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, **November 9**, at the Moselem Springs Inn. Registration begins at 6:00 and the meeting at 6:30 P.M. Renowned Civil War historian **Brian Pohanka** will present a talk on "Hollywood and the Civil War." First Defender polo shirts will also be on sale at the November meeting for \$25 each. Members wishing to attend the dinner should make their reservations and meal selection by **Wednesday, November 3**, by calling 683-1533. If no one answers, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. The selections include **catch of the day, vegetable lasagna, and chicken stuffed with broccoli**. 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**. Moselem Springs Inn needs a lead time of several days to order enough dinners.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table at Kutztown University November 1999

Brian Pohanka Addresses Members

Brian Pohanka, the renowned Civil War historian, spoke to ninety-five First Defenders and guests at the November 9 meeting at the Moselems Springs Inn. This was the best-attended meeting in the round table's history, and those present certainly heard an excellent presentation. Using slides to illustrate his point, Brian spoke on "Hollywood and the Civil War." He drew upon his own experience as a participant and consultant in such movies as *Glory* and *Gettysburg* to explain that Hollywood's version of the Civil War often disagrees with historic fact. Producers and directors frequently take poetic license with history for a variety of stylistic and economic reasons. These include the need to complete a movie on-time and on-budget and attempts to create dramatic effect to hold the audience's interest. Despite these inaccuracies, Brian believes that movies can be an effective way to attract new people to the study of the Civil War.

Prior to Brian's address, **Mike Gabriel** conducted a short business meeting. Mike reported that the meeting was the last chance for members to reenlist for another year. The results of the renewal drive will be given at the next meeting. The results of the vote for the summer field trip were announced, with the members selecting a two-day trip over a one-day one by a wide margin. At the December meeting, the board will discuss possible trip destinations with the members, who will then vote for one in the next newsletter.

Jack Gurney brought in artifacts from his personal collection to share with the round table, and **Arlan Christ** graciously auctioned two more Civil War prints. **State**

Representative Tom Caltagirone was unable to attend the meeting but sent a Civil War era rifle and shotgun for the members to see. He also contributed a six-tape, twelve-hour collection of *Civil War Journal*, which will be auctioned at the December meeting.

Book Raffle

Between the book raffle and the art auction we raised \$208 for preservation. Remember Dave Valuska will be auctioning another of Jack Gurney's popular soldier figure lamps and a set of video tapes at our December meeting. Also we will raffle four books next month. You will have a choice of the following. *Civil War Source Book*, Philip Katcher; *Nathan Bedford Forrest*, John A. Wyeth; *The Wilderness Campaign*, Gary Gallagher; *The Naval History of the Civil War*, Bern Anderson; *The Class of 1846*, John C. Waugh and *Civil War and Reconstruction*, Essays of Gideon Wells.

PA Monuments

One Gettysburg monument that is no stranger to many of our Roundtable members is the 96th. Part of the VI Corps, 1st Division, 2nd Brigade its members were recruited from neighboring Schuylkill County as well as from Berks, Luzerne and Dauphin Counties. The monument is on the ground held by the VI Corps on Wheatfield road. Some masonry work is needed, about \$180 worth and the endowment is \$4,000.

Book Review

Stonewall's Gold by Robert Mrazek, St. Martin's Paperbacks, 1999.

While I always have an erudite history of the Civil War in progress, I find it necessary to inject an easy reading, entertaining novel from time to time. *Stonewall's Gold* is just that. For those who are interested in the Shenandoah Valley, the

places in this book will be familiar. Also of interest, one of the reviewers on the back cover is Robert Krick, Central Virginia's historian for the National Park Service and renowned author. Those of us on the field trip to Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville last spring had the pleasure of meeting him when we presented our donation for battlefield preservation was. He comments that this book is "a superb piece of literature, rich in texture and of surpassing literary merit..."

Fifteen-year-old Jamie Lockhart's adventure began the day Confederate Corporal Blewitt showed up looking for lodging. Jamie studied his strange behavior following him one night to witness him digging up graves. Not long after, Jamie discovered him attempting to rape his mother and killed him. In Blewitt's belongings, he discovered a map sewn into a tobacco pouch—a map that led to a stash of gold that Stonewall Jackson had left behind during his Spring 1862 Valley Campaign.

There are many parallels between this novel and Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. Jim Hawkins had Dr. Livesey to fill the role of his dead father. In this novel, Dr. Cassidy became surrogate father and advisor to Jamie whose father was a Confederate officer serving in the defense of Richmond during the last months of the war. This boy, like Jim Hawkins, is determined to find the treasure. Nefarious forces are also on the trail of the gold. Unlike Hawkins, however, Jamie's motives involved no greed; he wanted only to get the gold to General Lee to expedite a Southern victory and have his father safely home again. On the quest for gold, he encountered all types of characters, good and evil, Yankee and Rebel.

This novel is based on real characters and circumstances that have been documented. They remind us just how horrific the war must have been for civilians whose towns and homes became battlegrounds. The language, while not the caliber of Crane's *Red Badge of Courage*, is

straightforward and engaging. *Stonewall's Gold* can be read and enjoyed by younger readers who may have limited knowledge of the Civil War without detracting from the story. I highly recommend this book for anyone, adult or teen, who enjoys Civil War fiction. Linda Zeiber.

December Meeting Set

The First Defenders will hold their annual Christmas meeting on **Tuesday, December 14** at 6:00 PM at the Moselem Springs Inn. **The Kent Courtney Orchestra** will again be the featured performers. They will also have tapes and CDs available for purchase, including their newest release, *Garry Owen*, which sells for \$17.50. Any members, male and female, who own Civil War uniforms or dresses from the era are encouraged to wear them. In addition to the auctions mentioned above and the tapes and CDs, the remaining First Defender polo shirts will be on sale for \$25.

Members wishing to attend the dinner should make their reservations and meal selection by **Wednesday, December 8**, by calling 683-1533. If no one answers, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. The selections include catch of the day, roast beef, and vegetable lasagna. Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres will also be available during the social time. **The price for the December meeting 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.** Moselem Springs Inn needs a lead time of several days to order enough dinners. Late reservations also greatly complicates seating arrangements and can lead to overcrowding.

**SEASON'S GREETINGS
FROM THE FIRST
DEFENDERS' BOARD!!!**

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table at Kutztown University December 1999

Kent Courtney Band Featured at December Meeting

The Kent Courtney Orchestra regaled eighty-one First Defenders and guests at the annual Christmas dinner and meeting, held at Moselems Springs Inn on December 14. Kent and his orchestra, who performed at last year's party, played a variety of nineteenth-century songs, including *Shenandoah*, and *Danny Boy*. They concluded with a rousing rendition of *Auld Lang Sine*.

Prior to the performance, **Mike Gabriel** conducted a short business meeting. Mike announced the name of those who will be invited to join the First Defenders: **Dr. Gordon Goldberg, John McCormack, Jim Sauer, Kenny Schmehl, Errol Steffy, Anna Waldherr, Gerald Zeiber**. In January, The members will vote on next summer's overnight field trip. The choices are Spotsylvania/Wilderness/Cedar Mountain; Richmond and the Peninsula; Jackson's Valley Campaign. Please return the enclosed ballot by the January meeting.

At the meeting, the board announced plans this year's donations from the Preservation Fund. We will give between \$750-\$1,000 to a yet-undetermined organization in May 2000. The donation will probably correspond to our field trip selection, as has been done in the past. We will also donate an additional \$250 to the Gettysburg Monuments campaign. Finally, the board is going to sequester \$500 for a preservation effort in October 2000 at

Cedar Mountain, Virginia. **Dave Valuska** will participate in this event and the First Defenders will be recognized as donors by having our name placed on a plaque. Such donations are possible because of the huge success our book raffle, supplemented by auctions of Civil War art, the *Civil War Journal* tape set, and another of Jack Gurney's famous lamps. Finally, Linda Zeiber and Dave announced that in April 2000 a large preservation fund raiser will take place in Gettysburg. More detail will be given at later meetings, and we may try to find a way to have the First Defenders participate.

Book Raffle

At the December meeting raffle ticket purchasers added another \$133 to our preservation fund. Thanks to other donations, a lamp by **Jack Gurney** and a set of video tapes by **State**

Representative Tom Caltigirone, we raised another \$155. Thanks too to our President, Dave Valuska for his good work as auctioneer. Preservation funds now stand at \$1445.

We want to thank **Sharon Hartman** for donating Jeffery Wert's book on Longstreet. **Peggy Reichardt** also for her donation of a three volume set *The Civil War*. These will be chanced off next month along with the following: *The American Spirit*, the artwork of Mort Kunstler, *The Secret War for the Union*, a work on military intelligence, *Annals of the War*, a kind of

mini Battles and Leaders, and *To the Gates of Richmond* by Stephen Sears.

Pennsylvania Monuments

During the Civil War Pennsylvania's upper tier counties responded to the Union effort in sizable numbers considering the area's population. While only a few regiments like the 141st were exclusively from the northern counties, many men from Bradford, Tioga, Potter and so on helped to fill regiments comprised of men from counties state wide. Today these counties are poor compared with many of their sister counties in the southern part of Pennsylvania. They are unlikely to raise much money for their monuments. Yet their ancestors' sacrifices were as great as any. Perhaps we may want to consider a donation to benefit some of them?

January 2000 Meeting

The First Defenders will hold their first meeting of the new millennium on **Tuesday, January 11** at 6:00 PM at the Moselem Springs Inn. **Kerry**

Willard, a First Defender member, will speak on an often overlooked, but extremely important topic, Civil War medicine.

Members wishing to attend the dinner should make their reservations and meal selection by **Wednesday, January 5**, by calling 683-1533. If no one answers, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. The selections include catch of the day, roasted pork chops, and vegetable lasagna. **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.** Moselem Springs Inn needs a lead time of several days to order enough dinners. Late reservations also greatly complicates seating arrangements and can lead to overcrowding.

HAPPY NEW YEAR'S!!

JUNE 2000 FIELD TRIP BALLOT

Vote for one of the following choices for the June 2000 overnight field trip. If you don't want to cut the newsletter, just write your selection on a piece of paper. Return the ballots by the January meeting to **Dr. Ron Rhein, Department of Biology, Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA 19530.**

_____ **Spotsylvania/Wilderness/Cedar Mountain**

_____ **Richmond and the Peninsula**

_____ **Jackson's Valley Campaign**

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

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

Civil War Medicine Topic of January Meeting

Kerry Willard came with a large display of Civil War era medical and surgical implements as well as a display board to enhance his thorough talk on the medical corps of the Union army. What was true of the Union was also true for the Confederacy except they were less well supplied. The discover of ether and chloroform in the 1840's made advances in surgery possible and the techniques of the surgeons were not all that primitive. But there was no germ theory of disease and infection was prevalent following amputations. The bulk of the wounds, about 94 %, were from gunshots.

Ron Rhein conducted a brief business meeting prior to our dinner. Ron announced the members voted to make Cedar Mountain, the Wilderness and Spottsylvania the choice of our two day field trip this coming year. That choice had the support of three more members than the second choice of the Peninsula. We now must select a week-end. Please return the enclosed ballot to Ron by the February meeting.

Book Raffle

Members purchased another 131 tickets to take chances in winning five prizes at our January raffle. Because there were expenses of twenty dollars, \$111 of what we took in went to preservation. However thanks to our generous speaker, who donated his honorarium, another \$50 went into the fund making January's contribution \$161. The fund has now grown to \$1606. I apologize to **Paul Foust** for omitting mentioning that he and **Peggy Reichardt** donated the three volume set of

books, *The Civil War* last month. They were among the five books selected by our lucky ticket holders.

Thanks go out to **Dennis Heffner** for donating *The Timechart of Military History*. This oversized book combines text, illustrations and maps to give a sweep of history from 3000 B.C. to the present. We also thank **Ira Boyer** for donating David Herbert Donald's recent biography of Lincoln. We will help fight the winter blues with a larger than usual number of prizes in February.

Pennsylvania Monuments

Kerry Willard, our January speaker, is a reenactor in the 53rd Pennsylvania. At Gettysburg, where they lost sixty percent of their number, the regiment was part of fourth brigade, first division, II corps. This regiment came from the state wide counties of Montgomery, Blair, Huntington, Centre, Clearfield, Carbon, Union, Luzerne, Potter, Northumberland, Montour, Juniata and Westmoreland. Located at Rose Grove on Brooke Avenue, the statue requires \$1,120 in maintenance and an endowment of \$3,000.

February Meeting Scheduled

The First Defenders will next meeting on **Tuesday, February 8** at 6:00 PM at the Moselem Springs Inn. **Mike Gabriel** and **Ron Rhein** will continue their account of the western campaigns by discussing "The Siege of Vicksburg, May-July, 1863."

Members wishing to attend the dinner should make their reservations and meal selection by **Wednesday, February 2**, by calling 683-1533. If no one answers, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. The selections include catch

of the day, chicken cordon bleu, and vegetable lasagna. **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.** Moselem Springs Inn needs a lead time of several days to order enough dinners. Late reservations also greatly complicates seating arrangements and can lead to overcrowding.

Book Review

Gabor Boritt, *Why the Confederacy Lost*. Oxford University Press, 1992.

This book is a series of five essays, examining different factors with contributed to the Confederate defeat.

Following an Introduction by Boritt, the authors and their essays are as follows: James M. McPherson, "American Victory, American Defeat"; Archer Jones, "Military Means, Political Ends: Strategy"; Gary W. Gallagher, "Upon Their Success Hang Momentous Interests: Generals"; Reid Mitchell, "The Perserverance of the Soldiers"; Joseph T. Glatthaar, "Black Glory: The African- American Role in the Union Victory."

I have read this book twice over a three year period and have come to a similar conclusion each time. At no point in the book did the essayists give an absolute reason for why South lost. However, following my second reading, I came to understand tht the writers provided a great deal of historical review and defining comments that allow the reader to come to his or her own conclusions concerning the Confederate defeat.

Over time, many historians and other writers have blamed the South's loss on faulty morale, smaller population, economics, internal dissent, questionable leadership, and the demoralizing issue of slavery. The North's superiority in many of these areas suggests to some that the

Union's victory was inevitable. While this may not be exactly the case, McPherson argues that they made it highly probably.

The book reviews all of the reasons listed above and the role that each played in the Confederate defeat. Nonetheless, it clearly states that the Civil War was still a war won by the Union army through key victories at important moments. Lincoln believed that "Upon the progress of our arms, all else chiefly depended." In the Civil War, the public view, on both sides, defined victory or defeat on which army retreated or remained in position on the field. Defeat caused considerable demoralization and loss of will. Victory, on the other hand, enhanced morale and the will to continue to fighting. Decisive Union victories at key moments gave the North the heart and will to continue the fight to a successfully conclusion.

After the war, someone asked General George Pickett why the Confederates lost at Gettysburg. Pickett replied, "I've always thought the Yankees had something to do with it." McPherson believes that this simple fact is highly significant, not only for Gettysburg, but for the whole war. In reviewing this book, Pickett's comment might be the "absolute" reason I looked for in the book. Perhaps anyone of you who reads this fine book will come to a similar conclusion.

This is one of the best books that I have ever read on the Civil War. I highly recommend it all, from the Introduction through each essay. This work reminds us that the hard-won triumph of Union arms was not inevitable and had to be won on the field of battle. Tony Reilly.

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Vicksburg Featured by Speakers

Ron Rhein and Mike Gabriel presented a talk on the Vicksburg Campaign, 1862-1863, to sixty-three First Defenders at the February meeting at the Moselem Springs Inn. Starting with Union naval attempts against the city in 1862 and culminating with its surrender on July 4, 1863, Ron and Mike explained the campaign's strategic significance.

Vicksburg was a key rail and river center, which linked the Trans-Mississippi with the rest of the Confederacy. Both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis recognized its significance, and both North and South made concerted efforts to control it. It remained for Ulysses S. Grant to actually take the city, however. Between April 29-July 4, 1863, Grant conducted a classic campaign that not only took Vicksburg, but also the Confederate army defending it. Grant's Army of the Tennessee fought five separate battles, defeated two Confederate armies, conducted a 47-day siege, and inflicted over four-times more casualties than it suffered. For its efforts, the Army of the Tennessee regained control of the Mississippi River for the North, cut the Confederacy in two, and was released to fight in other theaters of the war. As Southern general Stephen D. Lee wrote, "It was a staggering blow from which the Confederacy never rallied."

Prior to the talk, **Dave Valuska** conducted a short business meeting. The votes for the date of the June field trip

were tallied and the members selected **June 10-11**. The board will begin to make firm plans for the trip. Some members expressed interest in purchasing First Defender hats. **Rich and Cathie Kennedy** will contact the company that made our shirts and inquire about prices, minimum order size, and how long it would take to make the hats. They will also ask about possibly ordering more shirts of different sizes. The board announced that the name tags and certificates for the new members will be distributed at the March meeting. Finally, the board recommended that we donate \$1,000 to the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust for our annual preservation contribution. This is the organization that received our money last year and corresponds to our June field trip to the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. The members will vote on accepting this recommendation at the March meeting.

Book Raffle

Our round table members continued to support this fund raiser at our February meeting. Purchasing 114 tickets, after expenses we added another \$94 to our preservation fund. You are asked to select the group to receive our money again this year. The Board recommendation is Central Virginia Battlefields Trust in keeping with donating to the group that preserves those fields that we elect to visit on our annual trip. Nowhere did the Army of the Potomac, the Union army in which most Pennsylvania regiments served,

fight more frequently than in Virginia. We have but a few years remaining to make purchases of land bordering these Civil War sites. The land will go either to preservation or to the developer. Once bulldozed and graded for either home sites or shopping malls, the land is forever destroyed for a tactical understanding of the battle that took place there. Our time to act is now.

One more book was donated to the raffle, *Matthew Brady's Illustrated History of the Civil War*. I am embarrassed to admit that I did not get the gentleman's who contributed it to us. Watch for it next month.. In keeping with our trip to the Wilderness, two copies of John Cannan's *The Wilderness Campaign* will be chanced off. This is a book, not too detailed, to give you an accurate account of this confusing battle.

The Wilderness and Spotsylvania

In place of the Pennsylvania Monuments series, this month we will list some books for members to read for background on the battlefields we are going to visit this June 10th and 11th. Last year members asked if we could provide such a list. One book that treats the Wilderness with background descriptions of the major players is John Cannan's *The Wilderness Campaign*. On a much more detailed level is the classic by the same title authored by Edward Steere. Another is Morris Schaff's *The Battle of the Wilderness*. Schaff was an Ordnance officer during the battle and wrote from first hand knowledge. His writing style is old fashioned and may be tedious to read. *If It Takes all Summer*, by William D. Matter is a rather recent book on Spotsylvania and well worth reading.

Clifford Dowdey's *Lee's Last Campaign* is another. No one will go far wrong reading the contemporary accounts found in the fourth volume of *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War* or the appropriate passages from James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*.

Biographies of any of the major officers who fought there will also provide good background. So too will unit and corps histories, and some biographies of Lincoln and Davis. Col. Theodore Lyman's *Meade's Headquarters, 1863-1865* and General Marsena Patrick's *Inside Lincoln's Army* provide good day to day accounts of the Army of the Potomac. The works of Bruce Catton and Shelby Foote, usually available in libraries, are another source.

March Meeting Set

The First Defenders will next meeting on **Tuesday, March 14** at 6:00 PM at the Moselem Springs Inn. Harry Roach, the editor of *Military Images*, will present a slide program on Civil War photographs and images. We'll also raffle a subscription to Harry's magazine. At this meeting, the members will begin to select a topic for next September's open round table discussion.

Members wishing to attend the dinner should make their reservations and meal selection by **Wednesday, March 8**, by calling 683-1533. If no one answers, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. The selections include catch of the day, baked stuffed pork chops, and vegetable lasagna. **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.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

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

Harry Roach Speaks on Civil War Images

Harry Roach, the founder and editor of *Military Images* magazine, presented a fascinating slide program on to 63 First Defenders at the March meeting. Harry, a former student of **Dave Valuska**, focused his presentation on the development of photography from its origins through the Civil War. By 1861 technology had progressed far enough that it was possible to record the war and its combatants with pictures. Men from both the North and the South rushed out to have their photograph taken and thus left an invaluable record. One of the highlights of Harry's talk was when he would show the photograph of an individual from the prewar era and ask the audience to guess who the person was. Overall, Harry's presentation was extremely well done and offered yet another perspective on the Civil War.

Prior to the slide presentation, **Mike Gabriel** conducted a short business meeting. The members overwhelming endorsed the board's recommendation to donate \$1,000 to the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust. The members were asked to begin to think about a topic for next September's open round table discussion. **Rich and Cathie Kennedy** checked into purchasing First Defender hats. **The Round Table will order 50 navy/burgandy hats and sell them for \$6.00 each. We will try to have these available for the May meeting so members can have them for the trip.**

Finally, Mike announced that **David Kinkaid** and his musical group will perform at the May meeting. David is renowned for his songs of the Irish Brigade. It will certainly be a fitting conclusion to another highly successful year, and we hope that all members will be able to attend.

Book Raffle

Through your support in raffle ticket purchases we raised another \$106 for the preservation projects we support. Dick Baumbach won a special prize, a subscription to *Military Images*, by having his number drawn. I know he'll soon be receiving that magazine for your enjoyment. Our book inventory remains high and I hope to have some titles that will be of interest to many of you.

I want to try to implement a suggestion that several of the members have suggested. Starting in April, those who make a five dollar purchase will receive six tickets rather than the normal five. I had been slow to implement this reasonable request because at one dollar each, the number of tickets sold should be equal to the number of dollars we took in. It was a simple check or audit. But I believe I can record those who make a five dollar purchase and still tally the tickets and the dollars correctly.

Your preservation fund has climbed to \$1556

Pennsylvania Monuments

The Pennsylvania monuments featured so far in our newsletter have been to regiments. However there are

monuments to individual Pennsylvanians who fought at Gettysburg. Foremost among them is the equestrian statue to General George Gordon Meade, Commander of the Army of the Potomac. A member of a wealthy family of Philadelphia merchants, Meade was born in Cadiz, Spain, December 31, 1815. As an infant and very young child he enjoyed the luxury that his family's wealth could provide. But the family fortunes turned with the Napoleonic Wars and following the death of his father, his family lost most of their wealth. To gain an education, Meade went to West Point, a member of the class of 1835.

Meade's career included service in Florida during the Seminole War, as a topographic engineer he constructed lighthouses and made improvements in the design of the Fresnel Lamp. He constructed Barnagate Light, New Jersey. Meade saw service in the Mexican War on the staff of Zachary Taylor. While on duty in Michigan charting the Great Lakes region, the Civil War began. He commanded a brigade in the Pennsylvania Reserves on the Peninsula Campaign where he was wounded at Glendale. A division commander at Antietam and Fredericksburg, Meade was promoted to commander of the Fifth Corps which he led at Chancellorsville. On the very eve of Gettysburg, June 28, 1863, he was appointed Commander of the Army of the Potomac, a position he held until the termination of the war.

The monument, located on Hancock Avenue near the Visitor's Center requires major masonry work estimated to cost \$6,800. The endowment is \$16,000.

April Meeting Scheduled

The First Defenders will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, April 11 at 6:00 P.M. at the Moselem Springs Inn. Michael Dreese will speak on the 151st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Michael's books will also be on sale after his presentation. His newest work, *The 151st Pennsylvania Volunteers at Gettysburg: Like Ripe Apples in a Storm*, will sell for \$35, and *An Imperishable Fame: The Civil War Experience of George Fisher McFarland*, for \$15. Members wishing to attend the April meeting should make their reservations and meal selection by **Wednesday, April 5**, by calling 683-1533. If no one answers, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. The selections include catch of the day, chopped sirloin, and vegetable stir fry (how's that for variety!!!). 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.

Field trip Information

Anyone interested in attending the June 10-11 field trip should return the enclosed form, along with a check for **\$125/double occupancy per person, \$165/single occupancy**. The price includes the bus trip, hotel, meal, and admission into the national park. The check should be made payable to **The First Defenders CWRT** and be sent to **Pat Christ, 322 W. Main Street, Kutztown, PA 19530**. Seating is limited to approximately thirty-eight (38), which will be accepted first come, first serve. We will try to accomodate people's request for a smoking or nonsmoking room, but cannot guarantee that.

Did You Know By Tony Reilly

Here's Something new for our *First Defenders* bulletin. We'll give this a try for a few months to see if you like it. Hopefully the content of 'Did You Know' will be items we don't read or hear about very often in regards to the American Civil War.

Ulysses Simpson Grant at birth was named Hiram Ulysses Grant, which as a young student gave his classmates the opportunity to call him 'HUG' with the understanding that went with it. To reduce the teasing Grant transposed his names and became Ulysses Hiram. At seventeen his appointment to West Point led to a paper mix up and his mother's maiden name Simpson replaced Hiram. Surprised to find that he was enrolled at the Point as Ulysses Simpson Grant, he accepted the change and made no protest. As things worked out young 'HUG' did okay as U.S. Grant.

Casualty rates in the Civil War battles, on a per hour basis, for a soldier killed or mortally wounded for both armies provide the following frightening numbers:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Gettysburg 560 | 4. Fredericksburg 648 |
| 2. Shiloh 415 | 5. Chancellorsville 144 |
| 3. Second Bull Run 267 | 6. Antietam 974 |

Statistically, during the Civil War an average of one man was killed or mortally wounded for every 4.8 men who suffered non-mortal wounds.

The famous 'Pup Tent' in which generations of American soldiers spent their nights was first issued during the Civil War.

The first Civil War Round Table was established as The Chicago Civil War Roundtable on December 3, 1940 in Chicago. The speaker Percival G. Hart's subject was 'Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign'. Hart was a realtor and investment broker, and a graduate of Yale. He spoke again in Chicago at the 20th anniversary meeting on November 4, 1960. In 1977, upon learning of the vote to admit women as members, sent his resignation in protest.

Well enough for our initial offering stay tuned, more to come next month.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

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

151st Pennsylvania Featured

Eighty-one First Defenders heard Michael Dreese, a historian from Kreamer, PA, deliver an interesting program on the 151st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry at the April meeting. The unit, a nine-month regiment that drew men from Snyder, Juniata, Schuylkill, Berks, Susquehanna, Pike, and Warren Counties, played a significant role on the first day at Gettysburg. Assigned to the First Corps, the 151st found itself in the thick of the fighting near the Lutheran Seminary on July 1. The regiment helped cover the corps' retreat that day, but suffered the second-heaviest losses of any Northern unit at Gettysburg. Two days later, the 151st helped repulse Pickett's Charge at the climax of the battle. Mike brought to life the regiment's troops and experiences by showing slides to complement his excellent lecture.

Prior to the talk, Mike Gabriel conducted a short business meeting. He announced that Don Stripling, the First Defender's secretary, had resigned. Don is extremely busy with work and other commitments and is unable to continue to be an active board member. The board and the members thanked Don for all his hard work and service over the past two years and wish him continued success. Tom Tate will take over Don's role.

Also during the meeting, Dave Valuska passed out certificates to the new members. An update was also given about the field trip. Thus far, thirty-one of forty-four seats have been sold and anyone interested in attending should turn in their reservation as soon as possible. Mike noted that the reservation form in last month's newsletter contains a typo. The actual

address is Pat Christ, 332 W. Main St., Kutztown, PA 19530. It seems that the mail has been forwarded to the right address, but if anyone is concerned that their reservation may not have arrived they should contact Pat. Tom and Cathie Kennedy announced that the First Defender hats have been ordered and will be available at the May meeting. The price is \$6/hat. The board ordered an extra 50 hats so it can give one to each speaker. The members were also asked to begin to think of a topic for next September's open discussion. Two possible ones are Sickles at Gettysburg or Grant, was he a butcher during the 1864 Overland Campaign? If anyone has other suggestions, please announce them at the May meeting, at which time a topic will be selected. Finally, Jack Gurney showed the members the artifacts that he brought to the meeting. These included a number of edged weapons, including a sword disguised as a cane.

Book Raffle

The membership responded to the April meetings book raffle with the same enthusiasm as in past months. You bought 158 tickets. Additional membership generosity was expressed in the following ways. Dennis Damiani donated "The Civil War Music Collector's edition on three CDs. Look for it at the May meeting. Peggy Reichardt and Paul Foust gave us *The Warrior Generals, Combat Leadership in the Civil War*, by Thomas B. Buell. I'm glad I'll have a month to look it over, it seems great! Thirdly Charlie Trafford donated Steven Sears' recent book, *Chancellorsville*. Our inventory remains high and we can offer a good selection to our members without incurring additional expenses. One member donated five dollars

and she wouldn't take any tickets at all. The board approved our purchasing one of Mike Dreese's books and it too will be offered in the upcoming meetings. Mike signed and dedicated it to the group. My thanks to all of you for all the support you have given in so many different ways.

Our preservation fund, with \$1500 already encumbered, has grown to \$1719. Our contributions to battlefield preservation has been noticed and appreciated by the National Parks Service. Once again our Roundtable members who take the trip to Fredericksburg, VA this year will benefit from our own individual tour guide. Chief historian Bob Krick has assigned a young lady named Melissa Delcour to guide us and explain the complications of the Wilderness battlefields. She has published articles on the subject.

Finally let me announce for those of you who missed the April meeting and are looking for a book on the Wilderness. You can get one that is a collection of articles written by noted Civil War historians and aid battlefield preservation at the same time. To write and order your copy, send a check for \$19.95 made payable to CVBT for the book, *Civil War Regiments: The Battle of the Wilderness*. Mail your order and check to: **Dr. Mike Stevens, 1300 Thornton Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401**

Pennsylvania Monuments

There are three individual monuments to General John Reynolds, killed at Gettysburg on the first day. The equestrian monument is on the Chambersburg Pike, McPherson Ridge, near the site where the general was shot. Major masonry work needs to be done at a cost of \$9,500. The endowment cost is \$16K. A statue to him is located in the national cemetery. No repairs are needed but the endowment is \$4,000. Finally the marker where he was wounded is on Reynolds Avenue just south of route 30 west. It requires repairs of about \$210 and an endowment of \$4,000.

John Fulton Reynolds was a native of Lancaster, PA born in 1820. His middle name reflects his relationship to Robert Fulton of steamboat fame. Reynolds graduated West Point class of 1841. He served in the Mexican War. During the Peninsula campaign he commanded a brigade of Pennsylvania Reserves in General McCall's division and was captured. Commander of the First Corps by the battle of Fredericksburg, he declined to accept the generalship of the Army of the Potomac and replace General Joseph Hooker. That made him subordinate to General Meade at the battle of Gettysburg, but to reflect Meade's confidence in him, Meade made him wing commander and at the opening of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, Reynolds commanded the First, Third and Eleventh Corps. Realizing the importance of Seminary and Cemetery Ridges to the Union Army that was advancing to Gettysburg, Reynolds was attempting to hold the ridges west of them to prevent their falling into Confederate hands. Reynolds died in his attempt to protect those vital heights.

May Meeting Scheduled

The First Defenders will hold their last meeting of the season on Tuesday, **May 9** at 6:00 P.M. at the Moselem Springs Inn. **David Kinkaid** and his band will present music of the Irish Brigade. This will be an excellent way to conclude our year and we hope for a strong turn out. Members wishing to attend the program should make their reservations and meal selection by **Wednesday, May 3**, by calling 683-1533. If no one answers, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. The selections include catch of the day, pot roast, and vegetable lasagna. 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.

Did You Know

By Tony Reilly

Tradition to the contrary notwithstanding, U.S. Grant's favorite taste was not whiskey, which he in truth drank in moderation. Nor were his passion for cigars at the top of his list. His number one favorite was cucumbers, which he liked so much he often ate them for breakfast.

During The Civil War it was likely no town in the nation found the war so wearing as Winchester, Virginia, which changed hands 76 times as both sides fought to control the important Shenandoah Valley.

The word 'Rookie' defining an inexperienced new hand seems to have been coined in The Civil War from 'Recruit', which became 'Reckie', which became 'Rookie'.

Major General James Longstreet graduated 54th in 1842 from West Point in a class of 56. Asked on an occasion if this ever bothered him, he replied with a smile and said no. He stated two of his classmates died as cadets and 41 others failed to graduate; this put him somewhere in the middle of the class of 1842. He followed the statement with another smile and said, 'I'm also a pretty good poker player.'

To further help the General and others who graduate low in their class it must be stated that in the years before The Civil War. The West Point entrance examination was so difficult about sixty percent of those taking it failed.

Our final item this month comes from President Lincoln who finding his cabinet opposed to a proposal he has made, smiled and said, 'The measure passes by a majority of one.' I wonder if he ever played poker with General Longstreet?

To reserve your spot on the June 10-11 field trip to the Wilderness and Spotsylvania, please return this slip as soon as possible to **Pat Christ, 332 W. Main Street, Kutztown, PA 19530** along with a check for **\$125/double occupancy per person, \$165/single occupancy** made payable to **The First Defenders CWRT**.

NAME: _____

SINGLE OR DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: _____

ROOMMATE PREFERENCE: _____

SMOKING OR NONSMOKING ROOM

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

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

Round Table Finds New Home

As you know because of our recent letter, the First Defenders will now meet at **Golden Oaks Golfing Club** in Pricetown because Moselem Springs Inn has closed. The meetings will still be the second Tuesday of each month, September through May at 6:30 PM, but will have a new location. To get to Golden Oaks, take 662 South at Moselem Springs and follow it for five miles to Pricetown. Golden Oaks is approximately 200 yards beyond the intersection of 662 and Pricetown Road on the left.

Field Trip Report

Thirty-seven First Defender members and guests had a great time on the Round Table's June 10-11 field trip to the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Battlefields. Although no former Speakers of the House of Representatives accompanied us this year, we did have another terrific National Park ranger, Melissa Delcour, act as our guide. Melissa expertly explained the two battles to us as we walked and rode around the fields. At the dinner on Saturday night, **Tom Tate** and **Arlan Christ** presented \$1,000 to the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust. This makes \$1,500 over the past two years that we've given to this worthwhile organization as it fights preserve some of the most important areas of the Civil War. The trip was a

huge success and everyone is now looking forward to next year's.

Book Raffle/Preservation

We will enter the 2000--2001 Round Table year well supplied with book raffle offerings. Many of them have been donated by you, the members. Let me list just a few that may be of special interest to you. We have the three volume boxed set titled the *Civil War*, Donald Pfanz's recent biography on Richard S. Ewell and some things of interest for our navy men, *Divided Waters*, by Ivan Musicant, a very readable naval history of the Civil War.

We all know that the purpose of the raffle is to raise money for battle preservation. Our Roundtable is second to none in terms of what we have contributed in relation to our size. Since our inception we have contributed to preservation \$30.00 for each member. That's the equivalent of two years dues or two monthly dinners per member. To keep the spirit of our commitment to preservation alive, I would like to share with you some excerpts from a speech given to those of us who were able to make this year's field trip. Although this speech was made by Dr. Mike Stevens of Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, the words apply to all those engaged in the chore of preserving our heritage.

"... poor is the country that has no heroes, but shameful is the country that has them and forgets.... Our society, unfortunately, is increasingly entranced with the future and indifferent to the past

. . . But if we who do understand work together we can win together. Not all the time, not even much of the time, but enough of the time to make the effort worthwhile."

Mike went on to quote from an address made in 1889 by Joshua Chamberlain. "In great deeds something abides. On great fields something stays. Forms change and pass; bodies disappear; but spirits linger, to consecrate ground for the vision-place of souls. And reverent men and women from afar, and generations that know us not and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to this deathless field, to ponder and dream, and lo! The shadow of a mighty presence shall wrap them in its bosom, and the power of the vision pass into their souls." Tom Tate

2000-2001 Tentative Schedule

Sept. 12: Open Discussion, "Union Command at Gettysburg."

Oct. 10: Col. Len Fullencamp, "Gettysburg and the Strategic Situation, Spring-Summer, 1863."

Nov. 14: David Bastian, "Grant's Canal: The Union Attempt to Bypass Vicksburg."

Dec. 12: Christmas Party.

Jan. 9: Dr. Ed Baldrige, "Thaddeus Stevens."

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

Mar. 13: Ron Rhein and Mike Gabriel, "The Emergence of Grant: Belmont to Donelson."

Apr. 10: Dave Valuska, "Confederate Generals"

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

Membership Renewal

It's now time for Round Table members to "reenlist" as we open our fourth campaign. First Defenders wishing to renew their memberships should complete the enclosed slip and return it with a \$15 check by **NOVEMBER 14**. The check should be made payable to **THE FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT** and sent to **Pat Christ, 332 West Main Street, Kutztown, PA 19530**. Any member who hasn't renewed by November 14 will be dropped from the rolls and new members will be admitted from the waiting list.

September Meeting Set

The First Defenders will open their fourth season on Tuesday, September 12, at the **Golden Oaks Golfing Club**. The members will take part in a round table discussion on Union command at Gettysburg. Members can gain more insights into the topic by reading parts of any of the following works: Edwin B. Coddington, *The Gettysburg Campaign*; Harry W. Pfanz, *Gettysburg: The Second Day* or *Gettysburg: Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill*; Frank Haskell's *The Battle of Gettysburg*; any biography of pertinent officers, such as Glenn Tucker's, *Hancock the Superb* or W.A. Swanberg's *Sickles the Incredible*; or any other books or articles about Gettysburg.

Other items on the agenda will be considering the destination of next summer's field trip and enlisting volunteers to write articles for the newsletter. Members wishing to attend the dinner should make their reservations and meal selection by **Wednesday, September 6**, by calling 683-1533. If

no one answers, please leave a message on the machine and speak clearly. The selections include vegetable lasagna, tender sliced roast beef, and baked haddock. 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 as we begin another campaign, this time in a new location.

Did You Know By Tony Reilly

Who was the 'Average' Union soldier? On the basis of admitted incomplete data we can still develop a profile of 'Billy Yank'. Our information is based on a figure of 2.3 million men who served the Union. White males represented 92% of the army and suffered 97% of battle deaths. Afro-American men represented 8% of the army and 2.7% of battle deaths. A small number of Native Americans, Chinese-Americans and one man from India served in the army. Average age upon enlistment was 25.8 years old, furthermore 13.8% were 18 years and under, 63.3% were 19 to 30 years old, 21.9% were 31 to 46 years old and 1% above the age of 47. Average age for Union Officers was about 28 years old. Physical characteristics of our soldiers were a height of 5'8", weight 143 lbs, 68% had dark hair color, 32% red and light color hair. The occupation background of the men were 48% farmers, 16% laborers, 24% mechanics, 5% merchants and 7% professional and other occupations. It is interesting to note that the height figure for U.S. personnel during World War II and Korea is virtually identical to that in The Civil War. Physical characteristics of Confederate soldiers were probably very similar to that of a Union Soldier.

Private John Tommy, of the 70th New York, who was mortally wounded at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. He was apparently the first Chinese-American killed in action in the military service of the United States.

More Americans, North and South, were killed at Antietam on September 17, 1862 than were killed in combat in all other wars fought by the United States in the 19th century.

General Lewis Armistead was expelled from West Point in 1936 for breaking a dinner plate over the head of Jubal Early during an argument in the mess hall. Early, a very unruly cadet, was often in trouble at the academy. However, he did well enough to graduate in 1837, standing 18th in his class of 50 cadets. As a Civil War general the noted Early, noted that is not noble, had difficulty getting along with most of his comrades in arms during and probably after the war. He was also a notorious misogynist. I had to look that one up---hatred and distrust of women. Despite this he managed to have four children out of wedlock with a woman named Julia McNealy between 1850 and 1864. Oral tradition also has it he fathered five children by one of his slave women, named Rachel. It is a good thing he was a misogynist, had he liked women, who knows what the Confederate population would have been.