

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2015, the 19th Campaign



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems like our last program of the 18th Campaign was only a week or two ago, yet here we are about to embark on another campaigning season, the 19th for the First Defenders! And my, have things have been happening since we last met!

Certainly, many of us have been following with a wide variety of emotions the "assault" on the many reminders of Civil War history. Much of the focus has been south of the Mason-Dixon Line, but even we here in Pennsylvania have not been spared the wrath of political correctness and revisionist history. While the Confederate battle flag and monuments to southern heroes have been primary targets in the activists' crosshairs, various events during the anniversary at Gettysburg and the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg have also garnered the attention of those who seem bent on erasing a seminal part of our National Experience.

I recently came across a reference attributed to Dr. John Latschar, the former superintendent of the Gettysburg National Military Park, which I found to be especially salient. He noted that "history" is based on facts, while "heritage" is based on facts as someone or some group would like them to be, and accuracy is not necessarily required. For instance, we have probably all seen those who wave the Confederate battle flag (or, more likely, the rectangular naval ensign) from their car or front porch proclaiming "heritage, not hate," yet we know most of those individuals could not answer even the most basic Civil War history question.

It is up to us and those like us to clearly articulate the "history" of the Civil War, to ensure it is recognized, understood and, yes, celebrated by future generations, and, more importantly, to ensure the less-savory parts of our American journey are not repeated as we continue to make the United States the greatest country on earth. The tide may presently seem

to be setting against us, but we must trust to "the better angels of our nature" to see us through.

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The Board met on July 21, 2015, to discuss the upcoming campaign. Items for discussion will be shared with the membership during the September meeting. Please see Linda Zeiber, Recording Secretary, if you would like to have the minutes from the meeting. Don Stripling and Ron Emge have the October field trip to Gettysburg fully planned. See the website for the details and forms to submit in order to attend.

Membership

It's time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2015-2016. Please fill out the membership form found on the website, and return it with your check as soon as possible. The deadline for payment is October 13, 2015. If you plan to pay your dues in person at the October meeting, please be sure to fill out **the renewal form** and **bring it along** with your payment.

Preservation

Preservation Chair Cate Kennedy reported having an adequate supply of books for upcoming book raffles. Considering all leverages, the round table contributed \$23,065.00 to preservation last season.

James M. McPherson, An Interview

The author, most recently, of *Embattled Rebel: Jefferson Davis as Commander in Chief* says that coming of age in Minnesota in the 50's, he saw the South as 'a mysterious, almost foreign land.'

What books are currently on your night stand?

Ron Chernow, "Washington: a Life," and Daniel James Brown, "The Boys in the Boat." In very different ways, these books chronicle unlikely triumphs over seemingly insuperable odds to found a nation from 1771 to 1797 and to win an Olympic gold medal in 1936.

What was the last truly great book you read?

James Oakes, "Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States, 1861-1865." A powerful analytical narrative of the confluence of politics and war that ended America's shame and trauma.

Who are the best historians writing today?

Bernard Bailyn, David Brion Davis, Gordon Wood, Erick Foner, David McCullough, David Hackett Fischer. In elegant prose, based on impeccable research, they have covered the broad sweep of American history from the early colonial settlements through Harry Truman's administration.

What's the best book ever written about the Civil War?

The best book is actually an eight-volume series published from 1947 to 1971 by Allan Nevins; "Ordeal of the Union," "The Emergence of Lincoln" and "The War for the

Union." It is all there--the political, economic, social, diplomatic, and military history of the causes, course and consequences of the war, written in the magisterial style for which Nevins was famous.

Do you have a favorite biography of a Civil War-era figure?

Jean Edward Smith, "Grant." A lucid and empathetic account of the victorious general and underrated president that helped usher in the current revival of Grant's reputation.

What are the best military histories?

John Keegan's "The Face of Battle" is perhaps the most important military history ever written, establishing a new way of embedding armies and warfare in broader historical currents.* **Craig L. Symond's books on Civil War generals and admirals, on naval history and on World War II entitle him to first rank among military historians.*** Stephen W. Sears and Gordon C. Rhea have written the best campaign and battle histories for the Civil War, while Gary W. Gallagher and Joseph T. Glatthaar have written the best studies of armies and commanders. Rick Atkinson's trilogy on the U. S. Army in North Africa and Europe in World War II is beyond compare.

* **Mr. Symond's is September's speaker for the round table.**

--Thanks to Dave Fox for sharing this interview from the *New York Times*. I will share the second half of it in October.

September Program: Author & Historian: Dr. Craig L. Symonds **Topic: "Lincoln & His Admirals"**



Dr. Craig L. Symonds is Professor of History Emeritus at the United States Naval Academy. The first person to win both the Naval Academy's "Excellence in Teaching" award (1988) and its "Excellence in Research" award (1998), he also served as History Department chair from 1988 to 1992, and received the Department of the Navy's Superior Civilian Service medal three times. He was Professor of Strategy at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island (1971-74) and at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, England (1994-95). After retirement in 2005, he returned to the Naval Academy for one year in 2011-12 to serve as "The Class of 1957 Distinguished Professor of American Naval History." Symonds was awarded the Dudley Knox Medal for Lifetime Achievement by the Naval Historical Foundation in 2014.

Dr. Symonds is the author or editor of twenty-eight books including prize-winning biographies of Civil War figures Joseph E. Johnston (1992), Patrick Cleburne (1997) and Franklin Buchanan (1999), as well as *The American Heritage History of the Battle of Gettysburg* (2001). *Decision at Sea: Five Naval Battles that Shaped American History* (2005) won the Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt Prize for Naval History. His 2008 book, *Lincoln and His Admirals: Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. Navy and the Civil War*, won the Barondess Prize, the Laney Prize, the Lyman Prize, the Lincoln Prize and the Abraham Lincoln Institute Book Award. He also won the Nevins-Freeman Prize in 2009. His book on the Battle of Midway was published in 2011. His newest book is *NEPTUNE: The Allied Invasion of Europe and the D-Day Landings* was released in May 2014.

He and his wife, Marylou, live in Annapolis, Maryland; they have one son and two grandchildren.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, September 8, 2015 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for September include: Pasta Carbonara--penne pasta with peas and mushrooms in a cream sauce (vegetarian), Greek Stuffed chicken--stuffed with spinach and feta cheese broiled in lemon and olive oil, Broiled Tilapia in Lemon Butter Sauce, and Stuffed Boneless Pork Chop with Pan Gravy. Starch, Vegetable, salad, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to **Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995** no later than noon Friday, September 4, 2015, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. **This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not.** Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

****PLEASE NOTE: IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU PAY IN THE APPROPRIATE DOLLAR AMOUNT. WE DO NOT HAVE A CHANGE DRAWER. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT \$50 OR \$100 BILLS IN PAYMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

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October 2015



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have all read how "eager" the Civil War armies were for the start of their spring campaigns. This even with the certain knowledge that hard marching, scant rations and the hazards of battle, including death, could be expected as their campaigns would progress over the ensuing months.

Like our forbears, the First Defenders have shown how enthusiastically we are looking forward to the campaign now underway in grand style. Thankfully, hardships the Civil War veterans faced are not our lot; indeed, we get to sit instead of march, our rations are anything but scant and there is an excellent chance we will return home as full of vim and vigor as when we got here!

Our thanks go to Dr. Craig Symonds for his lead-off September program. Not only did he provide an interesting talk outlining some of Abraham Lincoln's genius as commander-in-chief, his presentation was folksy and humorous and was enjoyed by 75 members and guests.

Re-enlistment efforts are going well with more than half the regiment back on the muster rolls along with at least a half-dozen "fresh fish" already signed and in the ranks. But, we need the rest of the First Defenders to get their enlistment papers completed on or before the October meeting to keep our campaign efforts rolling along.

Through his presentation, Dr. Symonds gave us all some things to think about not only with respect to Lincoln's management of war efforts, but also lessons that we can apply in our everyday lives. For example, in addressing the serious international controversy generated by Captain Charles Wilkes and the "Trent Affair," we learned that sometimes the best decision is to make no decision... at least until the time is ripe. We also heard that sometimes a leader needs to step in to make a "compromise

decision" when two parties are at loggerheads that both makes them feel like they came away with a "win" while ensuring the common mission is accomplished successfully. Finally, we learned that someone can lead without necessarily feeding his own ego.

While these three traits are not necessarily in vogue today with, as Dr. Symonds noted, our insatiable news cycle, political wailings and gnashing-of-teeth and split-second social media babble, they are, perhaps, traits that we should want to add to our individual personalities and actions in an effort to make our nation (and our world!) a kinder, gentler place. The lessons of the past need not be lost for the future.

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The September 8, 2015, First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Inn at Reading by President Craig Breneiser. After welcoming everyone to a new campaign following our summer hiatus, Greg Stull offered a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 75 members and guests in attendance. Vice President Mark Quattroco presented information about battlefield lands currently being pursued for preservation. Mark made a motion that was seconded by Bob Shuman and approved by the membership to send \$100 to Chickamauga & Chattanooga and \$100 to Antietam & South Mountain. Both initiatives are under the auspices of the Civil War Trust and both involve leverages which are detailed in Mark's preservation report.

Craig reminded everyone that we are in need of someone to chair the Programs' Committee since Errol Steffy has resigned from that post. Please contact Craig as soon as possible if you have interest in serving in that capacity.

Ed Ewing gave some information about his table of Naval artifacts chosen to complement the program for the evening presented by Craig Symonds. He explained that the most valuable item was a Marine Corps cap box. These had no Marine markings until sometime in the 1880's. It is identified by its lack of markings. Ed displayed many cartridge boxes and a bayonet. As always, we are grateful to Ed for sharing his vast collection of Civil War artifacts with us.

Membership

Membership Chair Dave Sweigert reminded everyone that it's time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2015-2016. Please fill out the membership form found on the website, and return it with your check as soon as possible. The deadline for payment is October 13, 2015. If you plan to pay your dues in person at the October meeting, please be sure to fill out **the renewal form** and **bring it along** with your payment.

The membership currently stands at 60 members. New members were introduced and welcomed during the meeting. We are happy to see so many new faces join the Round Table.

From VP Quattro on Name Tags

During our September meeting we discussed the idea of members being able to purchase new Round Table Name Tags. It has been a while since members have been able to obtain name tags and, with new members joining and trying to get to know everyone's name, it was decided by the Board that now is the time to look into making this available again.

This is **strictly voluntary** for anyone wishing to purchase a Name Tag. Any member who has one of the earlier Name Tags and wishes to keep and wear it at meetings is welcome to do so. We are looking at Weikel Sportswear in St. Lawrence for ordering the Name Tags. The Name Tags will have both the Round Table logo and your name. The tag will also have either a straight pin in the back or pin and swivel for fastening to clothing. We did look into the tags with the magnetic backing to them but it didn't allow us the ability to use multicolor with having our logo on the tag.

There are two options we are looking at. The first option is having the tag all in blue with the round table logo on the left and the person's name on the right in White. The second option is have the logo on the left and on the right having a White background with the person's name in black. A question was raised at the September meeting about if we were only able to select one option to order or having both options and members would have a choice on which option they wish to chose. I am checking with Weikel Sportswear on this and will let everyone know. We are also, looking into an option where the person's first name is on top and the last name is on the bottom.

The cost of the name tag per person is dependent upon how many people order one. Right now we are looking at approximately \$8 for a name tag; however, we may get a price break depending on how many people order.

We will be discussing this more at the October meeting and your feedback and suggestions will be greatly appreciated. We will also, look to decide whether we want to go ahead with this.

Thanks everyone and see you at the October meeting.

Mark

+++++

Help Ed Bearss Receive the Congressional Gold Medal!

Please check out the Civil War Trust website to help our dear friend Ed receive his well-deserved medal. Use this link to send your support to Congress:

<https://secure3.convio.net/cwpt/site/Advocacy>

Preservation

Hello everyone and welcome to this edition of **Preservation Corner**. The 19th Campaign Season is off to a great start as the membership approved our first donation of the season donating a total of \$200 to the Civil War Trust with \$100 of this going towards Chickamauga and Chattanooga and the matching grant of \$5.73 to \$1. The remaining \$100 would go towards procuring a parcel of the East Woods at Antietam and Crampton's Gap at South Mountain and a \$3.29 to \$1 matching grant. The portion of Crampton's Gap the Trust is trying to preserve is an area where the 96th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry had fought. With the **\$200** donation and the Matching Grants our total contribution for this Campaign Season so far is **\$902**.

The Civil War Trust also has 2 more matching grants they are currently running. The first is Champion Hill, part of the Vicksburg Campaign, and a matching grant of \$3.55 to \$1. The second is Shiloh and a matching grant of \$2.74 to \$1. In addition, the Trust is continuing to try and raise money for the "Slaughter Pen" area of the Fredericksburg Battlefield and this is strictly a \$1 to \$1 match.

In addition to the Trust, there are other Preservation Groups which we will discuss in this and in future articles. In this article, we will talk about the Brandy Station Foundation and the work going on at Brandy Station Battlefield. Work started last year on preserving Fleetwood Hill and there were pictures of the work being done that had appeared in the **Civil War News** with the demolition of a house and swimming pool on the hill. Also, the Foundation continues to work on preserving the Graffiti House. Finally, the Foundation is working with trying to make Brandy Station Battlefield a State Battlefield with the State running it. We will continue to keep you posted on this effort.

Until next time!

Mark Quattrock

James M. McPherson, An Interview

The author, most recently, of *Embattled Rebel: Jefferson Davis as Commander in Chief* says that coming of age in Minnesota in the 50's, he saw the South as 'a mysterious, almost foreign land.' The following is the second half of his interview that was published in the September newsletter:

What are the best books about African-American history?

John Hope Franklin's "From Slavery to Freedom" continues to stand alone as the best general history. Ira Berlin's books on slavery and free blacks in the era of slavery, plus the monumental multivolume series he oversaw, "Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation," are landmarks in the field..

During your many years teaching at Princeton, did you find that students responded differently over time to the history books you assigned? Did their Civil War interests change during that period?

During nearly 40 years of teaching the Civil War era, I saw an increasing interest in the experience of civilians, especially women, and in the impact of the war on communities and families. Two constant favorites over the whole time of my teaching, however, were Solomon Northup's "Twelve Years a Slave" (the book, not the movie), the best firsthand account of slavery, and Michael Shaara's "The Killer Angels," a novel about the battle of Gettysburg that, to my mind, provides the most incisive insights into the various meanings of the war for the men who fought it. James Oakes, "Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States, 1861-1865." A powerful analytical narrative of the confluence of politics and war that ended America's shame and trauma.

If you had to name one book that made you who you are today, what would it be?

C. Vann Woodward, "Origins of the New South, 1877-1913." Coming of age in Minnesota in the 1950's, I saw the South as a mysterious, almost foreign land. Woodward's book, and his other books and essays, helped to demystify the region. I went on to do my graduate work under his tutelage at Johns Hopkins, which helped launch my career as a historian.

If you could require the President to read one book, what would it be?

Doris Kearns Goodwin, "The Bully Pulpit," which shows how Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft dealt with recalcitrant Congresses--sometimes successfully, sometimes not.

You are hosting a literary dinner party. Which three writers are invited?

Mark Twain, John Dos Passos, and William Faulkner. Primarily writers of fiction, these disparate personalities were also, in effect, historians of American life whose novels contained profound insights on the cultures that they both embraced and rejected. Their dinner table conversation would add spice to the menu.

--Thanks to Dave Fox for sharing this interview from the *New York Times*.

October Program

Presenter: Richard Hershberger

Topic: "The State of Baseball during the Civil War"

Richard Hershberger is a paralegal in Maryland. He channels his frustrated academic tendencies into researching and writing about early baseball, and has published in *Base Ball: A Journal of the Early Game* and in the SABR publications *National Pastime* and *Baseball Research Journal*.

He has also contributed to various specialty SABR publications bearing on 19th century baseball, and can be found blogging at <http://ordinary-gentlemen.com/>, sometimes on early baseball.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, October 13, 2015 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for October include: Linguine Forno with fresh grilled vegetables tossed in garlic sauce and pasta (vegetarian), Chicken and Waffles, Grilled Black Angus Meatloaf with mushroom gravy and potato crusted cod with dill cream sauce. Soup, starch, vegetable, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to **Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995** no later than noon Friday, October 9, 2015, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. **This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not.** Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

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November 2015



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Abraham Lincoln's *bête-noire* was almost certainly the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War, the 19th Century predecessor of modern sports analysis shows that spend a gargantuan amount of time and effort engaged in rather empty "Monday Morning Quarterbacking." In an oft repeated story, the ill-tempered chairman of that star chamber, Ohio Senator Ben Wade, once accosted the President demanding a change of commanders for the Army of the Potomac. Lincoln asked who should be appointed, and Wade bombastically responded, "Anybody!" Lincoln replied, "Wade, anybody will do for you, but not for me. I must have somebody."

I have come to appreciate Lincoln's concerns in a new way as I consider the future of our Round Table. We are here in our 19th Campaign and looking forward to our 20th, but without finding "somebody" to step into a couple of key positions, we may be looking in vain. Several of our officers and committee chairs have served for a number of years and have already stepped down or are planning to at the end of this campaign. Without replacements, next year is "anybody's" guess.

We have noted for several months the need for "somebody" to lead the Program Committee even now, and will soon need a "somebody" to assume the Meal Captain duties and another "somebody" to serve as Treasurer. If the Round Table has a desire to continue organizing and sponsoring field trips, we will need "somebody" to do that, too.

None of these positions require a huge amount of time and effort (I suspect an hour a week on average is probably quite sufficient), and "anybody" can volunteer for one of the existing or pending vacancies. But,

if the First Defenders are to continue onto our 20th Campaign in September 2016, like Abraham Lincoln, I, too, must have "somebody."

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The October 13, 2015, First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. at the Inn at Reading by President Craig Breneiser. Craig offered a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 73 members and guests in attendance. Craig explained to the group that Cate and Richard Kennedy were absent because of a health issue for Richard. Lisa Breneiser took over Cate's job of running the book raffle. Everyone wished Richard a speedy recovery. Bob Shuman and Chuck Bezler both contributed book for the monthly raffle.

Vice President Mark Quattrock presented information about battlefield land at Kernsville and Gaines Mill currently being pursued for preservation with a \$10.12 : \$1.00 leverage. Mark made a motion that was seconded and approved by the membership to send \$100 for this worthy initiative.

Craig announced that Don Stripling and Ron Emge are stepping down from their position as "Trip Planners." They were forced to cancel the scheduled October trip to Gettysburg since not enough members had signed up for the trip. The June trip is still on the schedule, but, if necessary, a van rather than a bus may be called for. It is necessary to begin thinking about Round Table trips in the future since filling buses has become a recurring problem. Of course, if no one offers to replace Don and Ron, the problem will resolve itself. Craig encouraged everyone to think about this issue for further discussion.

Six guests were acknowledged and welcomed.

Vice Presidents Report

Tim Antosy discussed the senior college at Alvernia. Upcoming programs on the Civil War will feature round table members Dave Fox and Dave Unger. Tim has made arrangements for round table members to have the \$50 membership fee waived. The upcoming 4-week course costs \$40.00. See Tim for details. He also told us that he and Deb will be working on the 88th PA monument at Antietam on October 24. Call Tim if you wish to help.

Mark Quattrock reminded us that PBS will air "Mercy Street" beginning on January 16, 2016. The series is about two Civil War nurses, one Union and the other Confederate. Mark and others have been consultants for the medical aspects of the show. It has already been decided to produce a second season.

Membership

Membership Chair **Dave Sweigert** reminded everyone that the deadline has now passed for renewing your membership for the new campaign of 2015-2016. Please fill out the membership form found on the website, and return it with your check as soon as possible. The membership currently stands at 92 members.

From VP Quattrock on Name Tags

During our September and October meetings, we discussed the idea of members being able to purchase new round table name tags. It has been a while since members have been able to obtain name tags and, with new members joining and trying to get to know everyone's name, it was decided by the Board that now is the time to look into making this available again.

This is **strictly voluntary** for anyone wishing to purchase a name tag. Any member who has one of the earlier name tags and wishes to keep and wear it at meetings is welcome to do so. The name tags will have both the round table logo and your name. The cost of the name tag per person is dependent upon how many people order one. Right now we are looking at approximately \$6.75 each. A motion was made and seconded to proceed with obtaining name tags.

Treasury

Treasurer **Lori Border** reported a beginning balance as of September 8, 2015, of \$1,462.20. Receipts totaled \$4,557.00 with expenses of \$2,370.45 leaving a balance of \$3,648.75 on October 2, 2015.

Preservation has \$474.00 in its account. Trip reimbursements due to the cancellation of the Gettysburg trip total \$1,027.00.

AAP

Barbara Shafer announced that a group of members will meet at 9:00 a.m. on October 29, 2015, at Lowes on Rte. 724 and travel to Gettysburg to work on 4 sites doing routine maintenance to the monuments and their environs. Anyone interested in helping out should contact Barbara or Don Stripling.

Help Ed Bearss Receive the Congressional Gold Medal!

Please check out the Civil War Trust website to help our dear friend Ed receive his well-deserved medal. Use this link to send your support to Congress:

<https://secure3.convio.net/cwpt/site/Advocacy>

Preservation Corner

Hello everyone and welcome to Preservation Corner. What a great night for the October meeting! We had a great selection of books for the Book Raffle and a special thanks to those members who donated books. As a result, we were able to raise **\$187** for our Preservation Fund. Thank you to all those who bought tickets and supported the raffle.

We also, donated another \$100 to the Civil War Trust for a matching grant of \$10.12 to \$1 they are currently running to cover two battlefields. The first one is First and Second Kernstown and the second one is a portion of the Gaines' Mill/Cold Harbor battlefield. After the October meeting we have donated a total of **\$300** this season and with all of the matching grants our Total Contribution so far is **\$1914**.

In the last **Preservation Corner** we talked about the Brandy Station Foundation. In this article we are going to discuss the Richmond Battlefields Association. This group was started in 2001 by Robert E. Lee Krick, son of Robert K. Krick, and currently works for the National Park Service at the Richmond Battlefield. The Richmond Battlefield Association works towards preserving the Richmond Battlefield and has had huge success with saving portions of the 7 Days Battlefield, Cold Harbor, and recently with Fussell's Mill, part of 2nd Deep Bottom and the Petersburg Campaign.

There are still portions of what is considered the Richmond Battlefield that still need to be preserved including Haw's Shop. I will continue to keep you informed of any updates with the Association

Until next time! See you at the next meeting!

Mark Quattrock

Meet November's Speaker: Four Days in September by John Schildt

John Schildt has been a lifelong student of Antietam. Among his many books are *September Echoes*, *Drums along the Antietam*, *Four Days in October*, *Roads to Antietam*, *Jackson and the Preachers*, *Antietam Hospitals*, and *Antietam Through the Years*. He has been a lecturer and guide for the Gettysburg College Civil War Institute and Bud Robertson's "Campaigning with Lee" as well as for the Chicago Civil War Round Table and many other groups. He was the main speaker at the 125th anniversary of Antietam. While giving tours, he likes to make history come alive by the information that he shares of people, places, and human interest stories. In addition to the regular Antietam tours, John also has an Antietam hospitals' tour as well as "In the Footsteps of Lincoln." These are approximately two hours in length. He also offers short tours of the Antietam National Cemetery and Shepherdstown. John has led three tours to Normandy and took part in the American and French commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landing in 1994.

Mr. Schildt has shared the following poem that he has penned with us:

They Came to Sharpsburg
by John W. Schildt

*They came to Sharpsburg,
The Blue and the Gray.
The fate of the nation
hung in the balance.*

*It was September 17, 1862
Throughout the day, they
fought, bled and died.*

*The armies departed,
But some stayed.*

*Some left minus arms and legs.
But some stayed.
Some departed with shell shock, combat
fatigue or P.T.S.
But some stayed.*

*Others departed by
train, or buggy,
returned home to
be buried on the farm
or in village cemeteries.
But some stayed.*

*They came from faraway places,
But along Antietam Creek
and on the hills of Sharpsburg
Many gave their "last full measure of devotion."
they now rest in peace,
In the shadow of the everlasting hills,
Under the canopy of heavens.
They came to Sharpsburg,
And some stayed.*

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, November 10, 2015 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for November include: Rigatoni with zesty vegetable sauce pasta (vegetarian), cornbread stuffed chicken with supreme sauce, sliced top round of beef with pot roast vegetable sauce, and butter crumb flounder. Soup, starch, vegetable, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to **Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995** no later than noon Friday, November 6, 2015, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. **This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not.** Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period. ****PLEASE NOTE: IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU PAY IN THE APPROPRIATE DOLLAR AMOUNT. WE DO NOT HAVE A CHANGE DRAWER. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT \$50 OR \$100 BILLS IN PAYMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**



Contact Information

President	Craig Breneiser	Craig.breneiser@gmail.com
Vice President	Tim Antosy	bciu92@hotmail.com
Vice President	Mark Quattroch	mquattroch@outlook.com
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Membership	David Sweigert	Davesweig@aol.com
Treasurer	Lori Border	borderlori@verizon.net
Preservation	Cate C. Kennedy	Kenwycke1@aol.com
Meal Captain	Barb Shafer	bshafer54@comcast.net
Trips	Ron Emge	Emge301@comcast.net
Adopt a Position/Trips	Don Stripling	donstripling54@msn.com
Webmaster	Lisa Breneiser	Lisa.Breneiser@gmail.com

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

December 2015



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was a religious time when faith in God tied most Americans together even as they made war on each other. Both North and South were certain the Lord was on their side and that He would crown them with victory. To be sure, the people put a somewhat different spin on their faith, but there was little question that a supreme God was directing their lives and they willingly placed their trust in Him.

Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis would each proclaim days of thanksgiving as they implored their people to take time from their daily lives to seek the blessings of Heaven for themselves, those who were fighting for them and for their country. The tradition of celebrating Thanksgiving continues to the present day although many of us may have become more secular and less pious than were our antecedents.

We know now, even as Lincoln did then, that both sides may have been erring in the sight of God but that, certainly, one must have gone astray. God could not be for and against something at the same time, after all. In time, of course, their prayers and supplications for the scourge of civil war to end would be answered, and the reunited country would realize "a new birth of freedom."

Today, we are a nation that appears separated by a myriad of issues about which there exists no small amount of passion (and which is fed by a 24-hour news cycle that would seem to thrive on "churn"). The recent events in France and elsewhere, though, remind us that as Americans we have the freedom to disagree with each other, yet we must individually seek the grace and serenity to do so without being disagreeable.

As we again enter a time of peace, love and joy, it is altogether fitting and proper for us to personally reflect and give thanks to God, however we see Him, for the blessings we enjoy for ourselves, our families and all Americans now and for all time. Amen.

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The November 10, 2015, First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Inn at Reading by President Craig Breneiser. Member Greg Stull offered a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 80 members and guests in attendance. Cate Kennedy gave an update on Richard's recent medical problems. He is doing well and will be returning soon. Everyone wishes him the best for a full and speedy recovery. We learned that Tom Kidd had recently fallen but was not hospitalized. Again we hope to see both members at next month's meeting. Roger Cotterill introduced his brother who was visiting from his home in England.

Vice President Mark Quattrock had thank you letters from the Civil War Trust for recent donations. Gerry Zeiber thanked Mark for bird-dogging preservation issues in order to wisely send contributions with healthy leverages. Mark continues to do an excellent job in this area. He also spoke about the design of the nametags which have been discussed. The final design will be in his article later in the newsletter, and we will make a final determination at the December meeting.

Vice President Tim Antosy announced that he and Deb DeMarco were recently at Antietam working at the Wilson farm where the 88th PA fought. They saw the land that round table money helped preserve.

Craig announced that Dave Unger has agreed to take charge of the Programs Committee. The board and membership are grateful to Dave for his willingness to once again serve our organization.

Membership

Membership Chair **Dave Sweigert** informed up that we now have 100 members. He also noted that attendance has been very good at meetings. Thanks to everyone for renewing and welcome to all new members.

From VP Quattrock on Name Tags

Hi Everyone:

We have included in this edition of the newsletter a copy of the newest design for Name Tags for the Round Table. The cost is approximately \$7 per tag and the backing would have a stick pin. If everyone is ok with the design we will be announcing details at the December meeting on how to place an order.



Until next time!

Mark Quattrock

Treasury

Treasurer **Lori Border** reported a beginning balance as of October 2, 2015, of \$3,648.75. Receipts totaled \$2,887.00 with expenses of \$3,288.98 leaving a balance of \$3,246.77 on November 10, 2015.

Preservation has \$561.00 in its account.

AAP

Barbara Shafer reported that a group of six members traveled to Gettysburg on October 29, 2015. Included were Barbara Shafer, Kathy Little, Gary Hertzog, Don Stripling, Roger Cotterill, and Linda Zeiber. Four sites were checked and routine maintenance was done to the monuments and their environs. It was an enjoyable day for everyone. Another workday will be scheduled in the spring. If anyone else is interested in helping out, listen for announcements to come.

Ed's Artifacts

Ed Ewing's fascinating table was back again with artifacts from the 124th PA Infantry, a 9-month unit. He described for us a collection of items that had belonged to two brothers from Chester County. One of these gentlemen was a captain from Company A and included an explosive bullet from Chancellorsville, a snuff box, a scale for weighing meat allotments, and a Hardee hat. All items represented the battles at Antietam and Chancellorsville. Thank you, Ed, for all that you share with us.

From Errol Steffy--Baseball during the Civil War

During a recent visit to the Civil Museum in Harrisburg, Errol noted a baseball display until December 31, 2015 entitled "Baseball from the Civil War to the Negro Leagues & Beyond." He thought that it may interest members since we recently had a program on the topic of baseball during the Civil War.

Meet December's Speaker:

Historian: Jason Wilson

Topic: PA Civil War Flags



Jason Wilson is the historian for the Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee which was formed in 1982 with the task of restoring and preserving the Capitol's historic and artistic integrity for future generations. The Committee has undertaken over 130 individual projects ranging from conservation of the Commonwealth's Civil War battle flags to the removal and restoration of the gilt statue "Commonwealth" atop the Capitol dome. Jason has served on the Committee's staff for fifteen years. His duties include designing exhibits for the Main Rotunda, inventory and project management of historic furniture, clocks and furnishings, in-depth tours of both the Civil War flags and Main Capitol's Fine and Decorative arts, research and writing of Committee publications including two

books, *A Sacred Challenge* and *Literature in Stone: The Hundred Year History of Pennsylvania's State Capitol*. Jason has also assisted in the writing of the National Historic Landmark application for both the Capitol and Capitol Complex as well as producing various free pamphlets for the general public. He serves as a contributor to The Burg, Harrisburg's community newspaper, writing on topics of Harrisburg and central Pennsylvania history, has written an upcoming article on Pennsylvania's massive collection of Civil War battle flags for Pennsylvania Heritage and is working on an article and book on the Clark's Ferry Tavern, a 1790s historic tavern, ferry, stage stop and archaeological site at the confluence of the Juniata and Susquehanna Rivers.

Wilson is a 1996 graduate of West Perry High School, a 2000 graduate of Susquehanna University with a B.A. in history and has undertaken graduate work in American Studies at Penn State's Capital Campus. He lives in Landisburg, PA with his wife Jennifer, and children Brooke, Koen, and Carter.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, December 8, 2015 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for December include: Basil Pesto Cheese Tortellini with Spinach (vegetarian); Grilled Breast of Chicken with Asparagus, Mushrooms, and Four Cheese Sauce; Pork Schnitzel with Sherry Mushroom Sauce; and 8 Broiled Shrimp on Skewers served over Rice. Soup, starch, vegetable, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

Please Note: There will be a beverage station set-up for iced tea and lemonade prior to the serving of the meal. During the meal, coffee will be set-up as well. Please serve yourself the beverages since the server will not be doing this in the future.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to **Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995** no later than noon Friday, December 4, 2015, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. **This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not.** Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

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Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



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CIVIL WAR TRUST

*Saving America's
Civil War Battlefields*

Civilwar.org

November 2, 2015

First Defenders CWRT of Berks Co

Mark S. Quattrock
1122 Broadway Blvd
Kenhorst, PA 19607

Dear Mark S. Quattrock,

Quite frankly, I am in awe. Time after time, the Civil War Trust comes to you with opportunities to save crucial parts of our shared American heritage. And time after time, you and your fellow members respond, giving so generously as you just did with your recent \$100.00 gift to help save important land at both the Kernstown and Gaines' Mill/Cold Harbor battlefields. Thank you!

Your wonderful generosity ensures that this land will never be covered with houses or commercial development... that people hundreds of years from now will be able to visit these two sites where four battles were fought and learn from these outdoor classrooms... that the sacrifices of those men who fought on these hallowed grounds will be remembered.

I truly hope you are as inspired by what you are accomplishing as I am. By sharing of your success in life, by dedicating some of your resources to the cause of battlefield preservation, you are accomplishing something that will last forever, as well as something that has never been done on this scale by a private organization in the history of this country. I think that is worthy of every expression of high praise that I can send your way, and every word of thanks that I now send to you.

Thank you again, and all the best to you. Take good care of yourself; I cannot spare you!

Sincerely yours,

Jim Lighthizer
President

(Pursuant to IRS Code requirements for substantiation of charitable contributions, the Civil War Trust provided no goods or services in return for this contribution.)

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St. Petersburg, Florida

Robert Uhler
Niwot, Colorado

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Alexandria, Virginia

Susan Whitaker
Franklin, Tennessee

* Chairman Emeritus

DONATION RECEIPT

Date: September 25, 2015

Donor: First Defenders CWRT of Berks Co
Mark S. Quttrock
1122 Broadway Blvd
Kenhorst, PA 19607

Gift Date: 9/23/2015

Thank You!!

Thank you so much for your recent gift to the Civil War Trust in the total amount of \$200.00. We have allocated your gift to Civil War Trust projects as follows:

**Donation
Amount:**

Project:

\$100.00

Chickamauga/Chattanooga Appeal

\$100.00

Maryland Battlefields

I truly appreciate your generosity today toward our land projects. The fact that you are willing to sacrifice your hard-earned money to preserve Civil War battlefield land and our nation's history is absolutely wonderful. I can't thank you enough.

(Pursuant to IRS code requirements for substantiation of charitable contributions, your entire donation is tax deductible. Civil War Trust EIN is 54-1426643.) No goods or services were provided in exchange for your generous donation.
Please keep this receipt for tax purposes.

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

January 2016



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We find ourselves again approaching the end of a long year with an opportunity to spend time with friends and family while looking forward to a New Year with its many hopes and challenges. For many of us, this annual rite is a time of joy, reflection and resolution; for most, it is the happiest time of the year.

To those in Civil War era army camps, aboard ships-of-war or on the picket lines, however, emotions were often much more muted. There were precious few efforts to bring the holidays to life (the genesis of the USO was nearly 80 years in the future), and diaries often reflected a single line that may have noted the birth of the Christian Savior or the passing of one year into the next with a plaintive hope of returning home before the advent of the next holiday season.

Yet there was also a simple faith on both sides of the battle lines that men were doing their duty to their countries, at least as they defined "country" to being their hearth and home. There was a sadness, a resignation, nonetheless, and many of those simple soldiers would not see the next year dawn.

Today, things are better for our troops. Though they may not be with their loved ones during the holidays, concerted efforts are made to bring some cheer into their lives. Even in the face of global challenges that seem incredibly daunting, modern technologies and public outreach go a long way to dulling the pain they may be feeling. Although the modern diaries have not yet been published, it is altogether likely their pages may be a bit more upbeat than those that were penned 150-odd years past.

As we go through our end-of-year hustle and bustle, take a moment to reflect on those soldiers from long ago...North and South...and the simple faith they exhibited many miles from their homes and loved ones. While we cannot improve upon their lot, we can honor them by reaching out to our present-day service members (and their families) in any number of ways, not least in our earnest thoughts and prayers. God bless our troops, and God bless each and every one of you with a joyous, healthy 2016. Happy New Year!

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The December 9, 2015, First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Inn at Reading by President Craig Breneiser. Member Greg Stull offered a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 65 members and guests in attendance.

Vice President Mark Quattrochio informed us that we were donating \$200 to flag conservation in honor of our speaker, Jason Wilson, who later gave a fascinating talk about the Civil War flags in the state's possession. Mark also gave the latest news from the Civil War Trust's preservation initiatives. He will have detailed information forthcoming in this newsletter.

Craig explained that last month's speaker, John Schildt, had been in a car accident a week after our November meeting but was doing well at this point.

The Inn at Reading asked Craig to tell us about several upcoming events that they are sponsoring including a Christmas Day feast and a New Year's Eve party on December 31st.

Treasury

Treasurer **Lori Border** reported a beginning balance as of November 10, 2015, of \$3,246.77. Receipts totaled \$2,442.00 with expenses of \$2,069.61 leaving a balance of \$3,619.61 on December 8, 2015.

Preservation has \$793.00 in its account.

Programs

Programs' Chair Dave Unger is looking for members of the round table who are willing to do programs. We know of the wealth of knowledge and talent of our group, and, if you are willing to be a presenter, please contact Dave. His contact information appears at the end of each newsletter.

Meal Captain

Barb Shafer reminded everyone that the deadline for ordering meals each month is the Friday before the meeting at noon. Exceptions to this procedure should be rare. Each and every member is requested to follow these directions. Should any problem arise, please call Barb well before the meal deadline. Her information is available at the end of each newsletter.

Name Tags

A motion was made and seconded giving Mark Quattrochio the authority to proceed with the current name tag design. Buying a tag is optional, however. The cost should be around \$7.50 for those who wish to purchase one.

Trips

A new leader is needed for the Trips' Committee. Ron Emge is still working on putting something together for June but needs your help. If you are willing to give some time to your round table, please talk to Craig as soon as possible.

Ed's Artifacts

Ed Ewing's fascinating table was back with Confederate conversion weapons. The guns included an 1816 rifle, a Model 1819 pistol, a Model 1836 pistol, and a Model 1842 flintlock rifle that had been issued at Harper's Ferry. It had been cut down for cavalry use at some point in its history. Thank you, Ed, for all that you share with us.

Preservation Corner

Our December Round table meeting has passed and what a meeting! We had a great speaker in Jason Wilson and he did a great job talking about the efforts being made by the Capitol Preservation Committee to preserve the Pennsylvania Battle Flags. They are doing an amazing job and to help them with continuing the work they are doing the Roundtable donated **\$200** toward this project and gave Jason a check that night.

The membership also approved an additional **\$200** donation to the Civil War Trust for a new **\$10.10 to \$1** Matching Grant to preserve 1180 acres across 10 Battlefields. With the Matching Grant this makes our Total Contribution \$2020. The Battlefields that are involved are:

East

Brandy Station, VA
Cedar Creek, VA
Glendale, VA
Falling Waters, MD

West

Ft Donelson, TN
Bentonville, NC

Trans-Mississippi

Prairie Grove, AR
Elkins Ferry, AR
Honey Springs, OK
Sandy Creek, CO

We have donated **\$700** this year so far and with all of the Matching Grants our Total Contributions for this year to date is **\$4,134**. Thank you for all of your help and supporting our preservation efforts. I will continue to keep you updated as new Grants and Preservation efforts come up.

Until next time. Happy Holidays everyone and will see you in January!

Mark Quattrochio

REMEMBRANCE DAY WEEKEND NOVEMBER 19TH-22, 2015



Remembrance Day, November 19, and its nearest weekend offers unique programs in Gettysburg each year. Reenactors from many states gather to march in a parade on Saturday during that weekend. Many of the units gather to decorate the monuments of those units that they portray and pay tribute to. Saturday night includes the lighting of the luminaries on each grave in the National Cemetery. For reenactors, there are several balls held for those in period clothing.

If you have never attended any Remembrance Day Weekend events held annually at Gettysburg, you owe it to yourself to experience any and all of the activities at least once in your lifetime. This past November the weather was perfect with the exception of the 19th when the National Cemetery Dedication, the date of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, should have taken place in the cemetery. Rain moved the morning's events to Gettysburg College. Garrison Keillor was the speaker this past year; each year's ceremony includes a memorable speaker as well as a ceremony granting citizenship to a selected group of immigrants each year. Saturday's parade of reenactors was larger than I can recall in the past. A smart wind unfurled the countless flags for the duration of the parade, and for a few hours in time, one seems transported to other times.



I have spent countless days in Gettysburg, but I can't remember any that touched my heart and spirit as those of this past November.

Linda Zeiber

Meet January's Speaker: Gary Hertzog

Our January speaker has been a member of the First Defenders for a number of years. Gary Hertzog is a 1971 graduate of Brandywine Area High School. He worked in the Food Service Industry for 35 years in Berks and Lehigh County. His passion for history dates back to his childhood visit to Gettysburg when he was a member of the Cub Scouts. Over the years his interest in the Civil War was intensified by his discovery that two of his ancestors fought in the Union Army. Recently Gary took the test to become a licensed guide at Gettysburg.

His topic for this month is "Farnsworth's Cavalry." Elon Farnsworth was killed on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg. We look forward to hearing Gary's presentation and thank him for his research on this month's topic.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, January 12, 2016 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for January include: Cheese-filled Manicotti with Tomato Cheese Sauce (vegetarian), Teriyaki Grilled Chicken with Asian Vegetables, Beef Stroganoff over Egg Noodles, and Tropical Glazed Salmon. Soup, starch, vegetable, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

Please Note: There will be a beverage station set-up for iced tea and lemonade prior to the serving of the meal. During the meal, coffee will be set-up as well. Please help yourself to the beverages at any time.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995 **no later than noon Friday, January 8, 2016**, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

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Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



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Meal Captain	Barb Shafer	bshafer54@comcast.net
Programs	Dave Unger	dsunger@comcast.net
Adopt a Position	Don Stripling	donstripling54@msn.com
Webmaster	Lisa Breneiser	Lisa.Breneiser@gmail.com

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2016



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last June, a long-smoldering debate over the place of largely Confederate Civil War memory in our national history broke into an open fire when a deranged young white man killed nine black churchgoers in South Carolina. The tragedy opened old wounds that were manifested primarily in the Confederate battle flag and monuments to traditional Southern heroes including Nathan Bedford Forrest, Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard and Robert E. Lee.

On the surface, it seems logical to denigrate the men and symbols who fought ostensibly to create a new nation that was based to a very large extent on African slavery. Why should we honor anyone or anything which, when viewed through a 21st century lens, sought to perpetuate such a base concept?

Therein lies the rub. It seems there is a groundswell effort for judging American history on the basis of modern-day values and beliefs rather than on those of the time in which they occurred. This becomes a slippery slope since it is as difficult for us to truly understand times past anymore than it would have been for Forrest, Beauregard, Lee and even Lincoln to try measuring up to a standard 150 years in the future. We need only to try imagining how WE might be viewed by folks in 2166!

As First Defenders, we may not seem to have a dog in this hunt since it does not involve our flag or our heroes. Or, does it? When we begin to see American history attacked, re-written or otherwise nuanced to be more politically correct, where does it stop? At what point, for example, do our namesake First Defenders have their motives modified (or even demonized) because they stepped forward to defend their country from apparent rebellion instead of the more noble cause of stamping out the curse of slavery?

While the American experience for nearly 500 years is one of remarkable progress, we also know there are many instances and events that we would prefer to have not happened. This is no different from our individual lives for we all have things in our past which may not rank among our finest hours. However, we, and the nation with us, move forward by recognizing and understanding our past, including the mistakes, to make a better tomorrow. Our charge, then, is to help others, wherever and whoever they are, understand the true American story rather than erasing the parts not in concert with modern day values or which may be uncomfortable to some. History, after all, is based on facts as they were, not as we would like them to have been.

For the Glory,
Craig

Round Table Business

The January 12, 2016, First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Inn at Reading by President Craig Breneiser. Member Greg Stull offered a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 68 members and guests in attendance. Craig announced that Bill Lord had been recently hospitalized because of a fall and requested thoughts and prayers for him and Barbara.

Craig discussed "Emerging Civil War", an organization that is sponsoring a symposium from August 5 through August 7, 2016. Featured speakers will include Ted Alexander, Chris White, Chris Macowski, and Eric Wittenberg. They are offering a special rate of \$85.00 for First Defenders members. Check their website for further details.

Larry Hummel brought up the current issue of removing Confederate monuments, flags, etc. across the U.S. This subject certainly merits discussion by our group. Craig reminded us of a comment by former superintendent of Gettysburg, John Latschar, who spoke of the difference between 'history and heritage'. *History* speaks to the facts of the past while *heritage* is how we would like things to be. Stay tuned for much more to come on the subject.

Vice President

Mark Quattro gave information about the Civil War Trust's latest acquisition of battlefield lands at Antietam. The Northwoods has been preserved and a modern structure torn down. Mark reported that there is currently an 8:1 leverage for land at Appomattox.

Wally Heimbach shared information about the Trust moving into the preservation of Revolutionary War sites. A separate entity under the auspices of the Trust has been formed to deal with this.

Treasury

Treasurer **Lori Border** reported a beginning balance as of November 10, 2015, of \$3,619.61. Receipts totaled \$1,862.00 with expenses of \$2,163.13 leaving a balance of \$3,318.48 on December 9, 2015.

Preservation has \$605.00 in its account.

Programs

Programs' Chair Dave Unger reported that the schedule for the next campaign is coming together. The committee met recently and discussed moving the date of the November 2016 meeting since it fell on Election Day. After a brief discussion, it was decided to move the meeting to Wednesday, November 9, 2016, assuming it works for the Inn at Reading staff. Dave is still seeking members of the round table who are willing to do programs. We know of the wealth of knowledge and talent of our group, and, if you are willing to be a presenter, please contact Dave. His contact information appears at the end of each newsletter.

Meal Captain

Barb Shafer announced that meal reservations for January were handled flawlessly by the membership. She encourages everyone to keep up the good work. Despite this, Barbara is still planning to "retire" from her position at the end of this season. We need someone to step up to fill her shoes.

Trips

A new leader is needed for the Trips' Committee. Ron Emge is still working on putting something together for June but needs your help. If you are willing to give some time to your round table, please talk to Craig as soon as possible.

Ed's Artifacts

Ed Ewing's table was back with three powder flasks including an 1837 Ames that had been made for the militia as well as a Peace flask. He displayed a general officer's sword belt. His most unusual artifact had to be a twist of tobacco from the 4th Tennessee Infantry. If this wasn't enough to pique your interest, Ed also brought a Union infantry shoulder board and a compass carried by Harmon Hilton who was killed on the 2nd day at Gettysburg. Harmon was part of the 68th Volunteer Infantry.

Thank you, Ed, for all that you share with us. You bring a "museum" each month, and we are the better for it.

Preservation Corner

Hello everyone! Our January meeting was a huge success with us having raised **\$186** for Preservation. Thanks to all those who purchased raffle tickets and special thanks to those who made donations for Preservation. It is greatly appreciated!!

We are now looking for a volunteer or volunteers who starting the next Campaign Season would like to help with the Book Raffle and selling tickets. Cathie Kennedy who, is the Chairperson of the Preservation Committee and has taken care of the Book Raffle for years, has announced she is stepping down at the end of this Campaign Season. I want to take this opportunity to thank Cathy for everything she has done with the Raffle and being a huge part of our Preservation efforts. It is greatly appreciated!

Mark Quattrock

Name Tags

Hi everyone! We are starting to take orders for anyone who is interested in purchasing a Name Tag. Name Tags are approximately \$7 per tag and you can place an order by either e-mailing me at mquattro@outlook.com or complete the attached form and either mail it to me at:

**1122 Broadway Blvd
Kenhorst, PA 19607**

or bring it to the February meeting. The February meeting will be the last day to place an order.

The order form can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Honoring Ken Burns by Kathy Little

Starting in 1978, The Kennedy Center Honors is an annual honor given to a living individual for exemplary lifetime achievement in the performing arts. The 2015 honorees were Carole King, George Lucas, Rita Moreno, Seija Ozawa, and Cicely Tyson. All of the honorees from past years can be found online, but who better to honor than Ken Burns?

If you would like to recommend Ken Burns for this honor google [kennedy-center.org special events](http://kennedy-center.org/special-events) and click on "Kennedy Center Honors," then scroll to the bottom to the box *Recommend an Honor*. Click on the box and you will need to give your name, email address, artist's name, and why you are suggesting this person. Mr. Burns has definitely devoted his life to educate people of all ages on so many different topics and presented those facts and ideas in interesting formats!

Meet February's Speaker: Sherri Stull

The story of the woman soldier has been a long, neglected chapter in our nation's Civil War history. Even today, when thinking back to the women of that time period, most individuals envision the woman left behind to tend her husband's farm or business, a laundress following the army, a nurse serving in a hospital, or maybe even a spy gathering intelligence.

Our February speaker is Sherry Stull, a member of the First Defenders along with her husband Greg. Her love for American history was born in elementary school, thanks to her teacher, George Meiser IX. Because her great-great grandfather, William Epler, served with the 128th PA Volunteers, she began her active interest in Civil War re-enactment, culminating in her fascination with the woman soldier.

Tonight she will share with us her discoveries and knowledge of the female Civil War soldier.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, February 9, 2016 **Meeting:**

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for February include: Cannelloni Florentine (crepe filled with Brunoise of vegetable and spinach with a bechamel sauce) which is our vegetarian choice, Chicken Parmesan, Seafood Pot Pie, or a 6 oz. Flat Iron Steak. Soup, starch, vegetable, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

Please Note: There will be a beverage station set-up for iced tea and lemonade prior to the serving of the meal. During the meal, coffee will be set-up as well. Please help yourself to the beverages at any time.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995 **no later than noon Friday, February 5, 2016**, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

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Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



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Webmaster	Lisa Breneiser	Lisa.Breneiser@gmail.com



Name Tag Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

March 2016



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

Important Notice: Because of the cancellation of the February Meeting, the business portion of the newsletter could not be included in this issue.

President's Message

The recent retirement of a fellow battlefield tramper provided me with an opportunity to again travel to Gettysburg. While there I had the opportunity to visit two unusual spots that I had never seen. The first, known as the "Devil's Kitchen," is located at the western base of Big Round Top and is a rock formation similar to the better known Devil's Den and Valley of Death. It is altogether likely Confederate sharpshooters were posted here, and it is also very possible the shots that ended the lives of General Steven Weed and Lieutenant Charles Hazlett (among others) originated from this point.

I also "found" a tablet atop the third railroad cut attesting to the activities of the Salem Artillery of Virginia. Hidden away from most Gettysburg visitors for many years, finding this marker is best done when the foliage is at its nadir (and slithering woodland creatures are frozen below ground!).

Although I have travelled to Gettysburg almost countless times, almost all of those visits were during the spring and summer when trees are fully-leafed and the grass is growing. But, when nature sheds her green cloaking, it is surprising how different everything looks! It gives you an entirely new perspective.

Perspective is an interesting thing. Last month I wrote about the debate over Civil War historiography and how it is viewed so differently by so many today. It becomes very easy for us to wonder how folks up in arms over symbols of a time long past (but about which we know so much) can truly be upset. How can they not understand these things and what they mean to those of the mid-nineteenth century as well as to us today. The answer is, of course, perspective: they are looking at things from an

entirely different viewpoint much as it may be disconcerting to us to view the fields of Gettysburg when the trees are bare and snow covers the familiar ground.

At the risk of repeating last month's message, we have continuing opportunities to educate folks who do not have the benefit of our vision and who can see things only from a modern day perspective. So, our ongoing charge is to teach others so they can understand the people...North and South...that lived (and died) as our nation experienced "a new birth of freedom."

For the Glory,

Craig

Name Tags

Hi everyone! We are starting to take orders for anyone who is interested in purchasing a Name Tag. Name Tags are approximately \$7 per tag and you can place an order by either e-mailing me at mquattro@outlook.com or complete the attached form and either mail it to me at:

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or bring it to the March meeting. The March meeting will be the last day to place an order.

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Adopt A Position (AAP)

At our January meeting it was brought to our attention what is happening in other parts of the nation. Adopt A Position at Gettysburg may be something we can do in Pennsylvania. We are fortunate to be so close to Gettysburg National Military Park and to be able to participate in Adopt A Position.

The purpose of the Adopt-A-Position (AAP) program is for volunteers to maintain the historic setting of the battlefield.

Volunteers (VIPs) help by doing field maintenance and labor that otherwise would not be completed due to budget and/or staffing restraints.

VIPs donate time and labor in preserving regimental positions, battery locations, or brigade lines. The Park provides equipment and supplies that are needed for the sites. There isn't any monetary involvement by the volunteer.

Individuals and/or groups can volunteer to participate. The criteria is a two-year commitment to work a minimum of one day each during the spring and fall program. The individual or contact representative for a group will arrange a date two weeks before the time that a work party will be at the adopted site. All work at the project site must be pre-arranged with the AAP Coordinator. The address for the coordinator St Gettysburg Park is: Amanda Whitmore at [\(717\) 338-4479](tel:7173384479).

First Defenders has adopted two sites, Gregg monument located at East Cavalry Field and 18th PA Cavalry located at Big Round Top. Gary Hertzog showed us some of the pictures in his January program.

Don Stripling is the coordinator for our group. We will be going to work on the sites Thursday, April 21. We will meet at Lowes around 9ish and carpool to Gettysburg or you may meet us there. We work on the sites then have lunch. Tommy's Pizza is a popular spot although we have eaten at other restaurants. We also work on the 6th PA Cavalry and 8th PA Cavalry sites adopted by Barbara Shafer. If time permits we have done some shopping and would like to visit The Round Barn in the future.

If you have any questions on what we do you can ask the following volunteers: Gary Hertzog, Bruce Englehart, Kathy Little, Roger Cotterill, Joe Schaefer, Ron Emge, Linda Zeiber, Don Stripling and Barbara Shafer.

I have been doing Adopt A Position for about 10 years and the list of available sites has been cut in half. This means that sites have been adopted but there are still sites available both Union and Confederate. I do have an updated available sites and Farnsworth's Charge is on the list. Thoughts are to adopt Farnsworth and a Confederate site. To accomplish this we need YOU to volunteer. If you are not able to volunteer on the selected date, please let Don know your interest. If we have enough interest we could have an alternate date. We may also be able to have a Ranger give a talk about a site or the Park.

The other way we can support Gettysburg is to participate in Park Day. It is scheduled April 2, 2016 meeting at 8:00 am to sign forms at 1195 Baltimore Pike, Gettysburg, bus parking lot. The bus will leave At 9:00 am. The area selected to work is Devil's Den clearing brush. To register or for more information contact Jo Sanders at 717-334-1124 x 3351.

If you would like a current list of sites to adopt, you can email Barbara Shafer at bshafer54@comcast.net or contact Amanda Whitmore at Gettysburg National Military Park.

Please consider volunteering at these events. ---Submitted by Barbara Shafer

Lincoln at Gettysburg

Tuesday Feb 23rd at 7:00pm

Historical Re-enactor
Michael Jesberger
will present a program on
the Gettysburg Address
and the President's visit
to the Battlefield.



A Request for Information

Barbara Shafer sends the following:

I had a phone call request for information from Judy Bouvier (her husband is a distant relative of Jackie O). She is a descendant of Amos Forseman who served as a First Defender during the American Civil War. She has searched online and does have his service record. She is looking for any additional information you may have on him. Amos is her great-great grandfather, and he had in his possession a Medal of Honor medal for John Dooley, another member of First Defenders. She doesn't know why he had it. Judy is unable to find additional information on John Dooley. If you have any information on either of these men, please contact her at 856-299-5273 or heroncoveinn@comcast.net. Judy lives in New Jersey but does visit our area and may join us for a future meeting.

Soldier Life-- from *Voices of the Civil War*, p. 48 submitted by Mike Straus

Sgt. Valerius C. Giles
4th Texas Infantry

Blank, a soldier in my regiment, had found an old fiddle in Fredericksburg after the battle, brought it to camp and paralyzed a whole battalion. He tried to smuggle his fiddle through and concealed it among the pots, kettles and frying pans in one of the wagons. But as that poor old fiddle had but one friend in the

regiment and five hundred enemies, it was discovered and reported. The owner was ordered to throw it away or carry it. He swore that he would not part with it, and carried it on his back.

During the long gloomy nights we spent in that camp, he would sit for hours at a time and saw and sing. He could neither sing nor play, but that was not for lack of energy, perseverance, or practice. He simply had no music in him, and he was the only man in the regiment who did not know it.

His favorite songs were "Nellie Gray," "Kitty Wells," and "Lily Dale," three of the most plaintive old ballads ever written. He was the best-natured nuisance ever seen. We couldn't abate him. The boys would abuse him, reason with him, offer to buy his fiddle, pay him to quit, and threaten to smash the old fiddle into smithereens, but it did no good. The drawl and saw continued. In addition to the three songs I have mentioned, he composed one of his own. It contained about forty verses and I am glad to say I have forgotten all but the first verse, which ran like this:

Ee way out in Texas,
A thousand miles from here,
I've got a little sweetheart,
Ee little mountain deer.
She's er settin' an' er singin'
An' er makin' Rebel clothes
While I'm er shoo'in' Yankees
Whar the Rappahannock flows.

Forty verses like that forty times every twenty-four hours, made up our ration of music. Finally a petition was drawn up asking the captain to suppress him, signed by every man in range of that old fiddle.

A committee was appointed and presented the petition. The captain was a good fellow, believed in individual rights, free speech, and free music. He declined to interfere, told the chairman of the committee that the nuisance drove him crazy at times, but Blank was a good soldier, homesick, and in love, so the noise was allowed to continue. That old fiddle followed us like an evil shadow. Bland was never sick, he was never absent, never missed a fight, and could always find some sutler to haul his "dear old fiddle" as he called it.

Great was the rejoicing in the Regiment when the news came that Blank's old nuisance had found a watery grave in the Rapidan River. The sutler who hauled Blank's fiddle was miles behind the Brigade, and when he came to the Rapidan where we had crossed the day before, he plunged in. Not familiar with the ford, he drifted too far down stream, got into deep water, lost his goods, and would have drowned had not been for some Georgia soldiers who were bathing in the river at the time. They saved him, but happily for us, not the fiddle.

**Thanks, Mike. This was much more fun than the usual meeting minutes! L.Z.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, March 8, 2016 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for March include: Vegetables with Penne and Vodka Sauce which is our vegetarian choice, Chicken Parmesan, Talapia with Tomato Basil Relish, or a 6 oz. Flat Iron Steak. Soup, starch, vegetable, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

Please Note: There will be a beverage station set-up for iced tea and lemonade prior to the serving of the meal. During the meal, coffee will be set-up as well. Please help yourself to the beverages at any time.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995 **no later than noon Friday, March 4, 2016**, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

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Name Tag Order Form

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The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

April 2016



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I never liked Grant. Not for the overdone complaints about being a butcher or a drunk, but I always thought him to be rather unimaginative and more lucky than good (although Napoleon always preferred his field marshals to be lucky rather than good!). And, Grant had the good fortune to, more often than not, face opponents who were cursed with being less imaginative or lucky than he was. Too, I also thought he was rather uncharitable to some Union leaders (George Thomas, for example), presided over a rather corrupt administration and managed to lose a fortune because he proved a rather poor judge of people.

Still, Grant did win the Civil War so I suppose he does deserve some credit. And, he was lucky enough to complete his memoirs just before his death, thus restoring his fortune, covering his debts and taking care of his family for the rest of their lives.

It is interesting over time to see how one's perspective has changed. When I was young, I was sure I knew everything (and especially much more than my parents!), but education turns out to be a lifelong process and paying attention to others and reflecting on what they say can reshape long-held beliefs and prejudices. There must be something to that old Pennsylvania Dutch proverb that says, "We grow too soon old and too late schmart!"

During our March program, Chris Mackowski introduced the First Defenders to a Grant that we may not have known. In his captivating story of "Grant's Last Battle," I found myself drawn to the way Grant lived his life outside of the military and presidential spotlight that usually illuminates him. In this softer light, we learned he was an endearing husband, father and friend, and he had a genuine concern for "doing the right thing" as a man. He was a *good* guy! To his dying day, his soldiers and countrymen, including those who were on the other side during the war, venerated the man much more than most historians and writers have suggested during

the ensuing years. His contemporaries apparently knew the *real* Grant, not the failure, the drunk, the butcher, the second-rate president who has been distilled into a two-dimensional, soulless being that we generally see today.

Learning, it seems, never stops. I'm thankful for that. I'm starting to like Grant.

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The March 8, 2016, First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Inn at Reading by President Craig Breneiser. Member Greg Stull offered a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 73 members and 1 guest, Charlie Beegley--guest of Martin Albright, in attendance. Craig announced that Sherri Stull's presentation, "Women Soldiers in the Civil War," has been rescheduled to the November 2016 meeting.

Craig discussed a move in Congress to award the Gold Medal to Ed Bearss. So far, 77 Democrats and 33 Republicans are sponsors. None of the Berks County Representatives have co-sponsored this award. Craig is drafting a letter to the Berks County Congressional Representatives on behalf of the First Defenders Round Table asking for their support.

Reservations for meetings still present challenges. Please note: **Reservations must be in by noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. Reservations made after that time cannot be guaranteed.**

The Reamstown Civil War program is in need of speakers. If you are interested, contact Craig Breneiser for more information. His email is Craig.Breneiser@gmail.com.

Vice President

Mark Quattro shared information about the Civil War Trust's 24.09:1 matching grant for land in Fredericksburg, VA, by Prospect Hill which is near the Slaughter Pen. He made a recommendation to contribute \$400.00 in Ed Bearss's name. The total contribution will amount to \$9,636.00 because of the leverage.

Mark spoke briefly about name tags. Call or email Mark for more information.

Treasury

Treasurer **Lori Border** reported a beginning balance as of December 8, 2015, of \$3,318.48. Receipts totaled \$1,911.00 with expenses of \$1778.71 leaving a balance of \$3,450.77 on March 7, 2016.

Preservation has \$791.00 in its account.

Membership

Membership Chair Dave Sweigert reported that we have two new members, Linda Hogden and Bob Correll. We now have a membership total of 102. He also reported that one of our members, Bill Boehmiller is leaving the round table since he is moving to Annapolis, MD. We all wish him a happy retirement and will miss him.

Programs

Programs' Chair Dave Unger gave a sneak peek into next campaign's lineup:

September--Ted Alexander

October--Jeff Wert

November--Sherri Stull

December--Scott Mingus*

*Dave also reported that Scott Mingus will be at the Berks County Historical Society on the 2nd Saturday in April 2016.

Book Raffle

The book raffle for March raised \$176.00 from the eight books that were raffled. Additionally, Bill Boehmiller's parting donation of \$50.00 gave us a grand total of \$226.00. What a huge success for preservation!

Preservation Corner

We continue to make strides in our Preservation efforts this Campaign Season. At our March meeting the membership approved donating **\$400** to the Civil War Trust to put towards a **\$24.09 to \$1** Matching Grant they are running for preserving the Fredericksburg Battlefield and the area known as the "Slaughter Pen." This is the area of the field where General George Gordon Meade and the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps made their breakthrough. In addition, with Ed Bearss coming in April the membership agreed to make this donation in his name. I would also, like to thank our speaker, Chris Mackowski for starting his presentation talking about preservation and the area we are looking to preserve. Thanks Chris!

With this donation our Total Contribution for this Grant comes out to \$9636. The total amount we have donated so far this year comes out to \$1100 and with all of the Matching Grants our Total Contribution this Campaign Season to date comes out to \$13,770.

I want to continue to thank all of you for continuing to support our book raffle and special thanks goes to Bill Boehmiller for graciously donating \$50 towards preservation. Thanks Bill for the donation and for supporting the round table. It is greatly appreciated!

Until next time!

Mark Quattrock

March's Program by Chris Mackowski

Our March speaker, Chris Mackowski, presented "Grant's Last Battle", named after his latest book which tells the story of Grant's life and how he came to write his memoirs. Chris is an excellent presenter and held our round table's attention to the end.

After his presentation, Chris, who is a co-founder of the Emerging Civil War, offered to all of our members a discounted rate of \$75.00 if they would like to attend the third annual "Emerging Civil War Symposium" which will be held on August 5-7, 2016, at Stevenson Ridge. Just let them know when making your reservations that you are with the Berks County First Defenders Round Table (See attached flyer.).

He also invited us to join his free online blog at EMERGINGCIVILWAR.COM.

Other Upcoming Events:

The National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg Exhibit entitled "Vice and Virute" will be shown through the end of the year.

Errol Steffy reported that Jim Schmick and Cooper Wingert will be having a news conference to announce the Harrisburg Civil War Days Event which will be held June 17-19, 2016.

Meet April's Speaker:

Historian
Emeritus: The
One and Only:
Edwin C. Bearss
-This will be Ed's
7th Program.

Topic; **Vicksburg**



Ed Bearss 8 April 2014 talking about Cold Harbor. Ed was in rare form as usual; he was great.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, April 12, 2016 **Meeting:**

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for April include: Stir fry Vegetables over Quino (vegetarian), Chicken Petaluma (grilled chicken breast with a variety of vegetables in sauce and pine nuts), Sliced Top Round of Beef with Pot Roast Vegetable Sauce, and Stuffed Flounder. Soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

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The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

May 2016



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm often amazed how quickly circumstances change even the most carefully crafted plans. As I'm writing this, a simple tree trimming in my front yard has gone from shaping and pruning to something more akin to modern sculpture that is completely without leaves. This is NOT what was planned!

I suppose Abraham Lincoln had plans, too, after returning from an evening at the theatre to attend to the beginning of national healing, but Booth's derringer shot changed those plans and, no doubt, history.

It is, of course, impossible to know what a Lincoln Reconstruction would have looked like. He may have likely been more successful with the Radical Republicans than was Andrew Johnson and the assassination-driven thirst for payback would have been a *non sequitur*. In short, what we have come to know as "Reconstruction" was simply not what was planned.

We can wonder whether the seeds of those unanticipated changes are bearing fruit today, perhaps sweet, perhaps bitter depending upon your perspective. Conversations are taking place that can be discomfiting...the place of the Confederate battle flag and monuments in 21st Century society is but one example, but there are many more that seem to trace their roots back 150 years and even earlier to the settlement and founding of the colonies. Those conversations are sometimes quite loud and raucous and even, on occasion, injurious (both mentally and physically).

Still, as a wag once opined, "plans are made to be changed." The Marine Corps uses the phrase, "overcome, adapt, improvise." And so generals like Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant had to make changes

when their plans did not unfold as intended (consider Lee on the late afternoon of July 3rd at Gettysburg or Grant on the evening of April 6th at Shiloh). The country has had to make changes, too. We did not get a Lincoln Reconstruction, so we necessarily need to accept the Johnson model and all of the things that have followed.

One of the remarkable things about reading history is to see how our forebears have faced and addressed changing plans and how the United States has continued to evolve. Certainly, not everyone has been happy with everything, and even today we are deeply divided over the direction we, as a country, are going. But, we all have the opportunity to have our say and cast our vote, something that not everyone back in the mid-19th century was able to do and which many other folks around the globe cannot do today.

Plans change. We need to be ready to change with them and to help others adjust, too. Life goes on. And, I suppose, I will reconcile myself to a maple tree in the front yard that, for awhile, looks more like a scarecrow.

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The April 12, 2016, First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. at the Inn at Reading by President Craig Breneiser. Member Greg Stull offered a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 80 members and guests in attendance. Craig announced that the evening's attendance was the best we had had during the current campaign in part due to the many guests who joined us to hear Ed Bearss' program. He also reminded us of the Emerging Civil War's Symposium held at Stevenson Ridge August 5 through the 7th this summer. Details may be obtained by checking their website or asking President Breneiser.

Vice President

Mark Quattro collected money for name tags that had been ordered. He has also given much information about Preservation as well as the names tags in two reports which follow the business meeting reports in this newsletter. Be sure to check Mark's articles.

Treasury

Treasurer **Lori Border** reported a beginning balance as of March 8, 2016, of \$3,452.97. Receipts totaled \$2108.00 with expenses of \$2646.37 leaving a balance of \$2914.60 on April 12, 2016.

Preservation had \$567.00 in its account.

Be aware that the round table is looking for a replacement for Lori who has decided to give up the job as treasurer. Contact Craig Breneiser as soon as possible if you are willing to take this position. (*Note: April's newsletter listed an incorrect ending balance of \$3450.77.)

Preservation Corner

Hello everyone and welcome to Preservation Corner. We had another great meeting with the book raffle having raised \$211 for preservation. Thanks to all of you who bought tickets and who support the raffle. We couldn't do the things we are doing with Preservation without your help and support. It is greatly appreciated.

The check for \$400 for the \$24.09-\$1 matching grant with the Civil War Trust was mailed to the Trust last month and as we agreed at the March meeting, the donation was made in Ed Bearss name. This donation goes towards the Fredericksburg Battlefield and the area of the Slaughter Pen Farm. With the donation we made our total contribution for this effort came out to \$9636 and our year to date total with all of the matching grants is up to **\$13,770.**

The Civil War Trust has made an announcement of a new matching grant they are offering of \$4.30-\$1 for Gettysburg to help purchase 26 acres of Powers Hill. In addition, the Trust also, continues to offer an \$8-\$1 matching grant to purchase 202 acres of the Appomattox Battlefield and a \$2-\$1 matching grant to purchase 70 acres of the Perryville Battlefield.

In other news the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust was able to acquire a large section of Pelham's Corner on the Fredericksburg Battlefield. The Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Association continues to make efforts to raise money to help preserve the McDowell Battlefield. The Richmond Battlefield Association continues to do great work in the effort to preserve areas that are considered to be part of the Richmond Battlefield.

On a sad note, I was in Gettysburg this past weekend and the latest rumor going around town is Wal-Mart is now looking to purchase the remainder of the site of Camp Letterman. Camp Letterman was the largest field General Hospital of the Civil War, located outside of Gettysburg on Route 30 going toward York. The original site was over 8 acres with 400 huge hospital tents along with a kitchen, dead house, and cemetery. Much of the site has been developed. The area where the surgeries took place is where the Meat and Butchery section of Giant Supermarket is. This hospital operated from late July 1863 with the last operation taking place 2 days before Lincoln's Gettysburg address. Camp Letterman officially shut down around the first week of December 1863. Wounded were treated and once they were well enough to travel, were taken across the road to the Railroad Station where they were shipped to a general hospital to places like

Satterlee Hospital in Philadelphia.

Currently, there is no effort going on to preserve this site. Both the Gettysburg Foundation and the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association are not doing any fund raising for this. The Civil War Trust was approached asking if they would help raise money to preserve the remaining site and, unfortunately, they have declined also. The Gettysburg Borough Council is also not supporting this because they look at this as a loss of money off the tax rolls if the site is preserved and not developed.

What is left of the site contains a large portion of where many of the ward tents were, the Spring Kitchen, the place where the US Sanitary Commission set up and the dead house and cemetery. We appreciate any ideas or suggestions you have on what we as a round table can do to help promote the importance of this site and the need to preserve it.

One last item is the June meeting is the last meeting Cathy Kennedy will be doing the book raffle. We would again like to thank Cathy for all the years she has devotedly run the book raffle and the money she helped to raise has done a lot to help preserve our nation's Civil War Battlefields, monuments, and toward the efforts to conserve the flags of those units who fought in the war from our state. Your dedication and service is greatly appreciated. Starting the next campaign season, Gary Hertzog has graciously agreed to run the book raffle. Thank you Gary for agreeing to do this.

Until next time!

Mark Quattrock

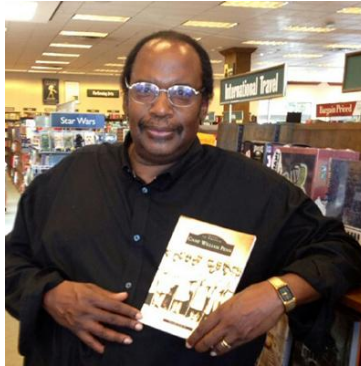
May's Program

Date: **Tuesday, May 10, 2016**

Time: **6:30PM**

Location: **The Inn at Reading, 1040 Park Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610**

Historian: Don Scott



Beyond 'Glory': The Federal Warriors of Camp William Penn

DONALD SCOTT is a history columnist for Digital First Media Inc. and a professor at the Community College of Philadelphia. He has written two history books focusing on Camp William Penn -- the first and largest federal institution to train black northern-based soldiers during the Civil War. Based in Cheltenham, a northwest suburb of Philadelphia where Scott today resides, Camp William Penn also hosted the greatest social activists of the 19th century including Frederick Douglass, William Still, Harriet Tubman, Robert Purvis and Lucretia Mott. A graduate of Cheyney (formerly the historic Institute for Colored Youth) and Columbia universities, Scott has written about a variety of African-American history, archaeology and genealogy topics for such national magazines as America's Civil War, Everton's Family History and American Visions, as well as regional newspapers including The Philadelphia Inquirer and The Philadelphia Tribune. As a history columnist and feature writer Scott has often focused on black genealogy such as investigating and writing about the ancestry of modern descendants of United States Colored Troops (USCT) soldiers who fought during the Civil War and black families with roots to colonial America and beyond, as well as his own family history with Gullah-Geechee origins on the Sea Islands off the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina. At least two of his ancestors served in the 21st USCT, a federal regiment that was stationed on Morris Island, SC, with the 54th Massachusetts of motion-picture "Glory" fame.

Other Upcoming Events:

Sherri Stull announced a Civil War program sponsored by the Cocalico Education Foundation to be held May 21st from 10:00 a.m. until 5 p.m. There will be a dinner and show in the evening entitled "Soldiers in Gray." Contact Sherri for more information.

The Reamstown Historical Society Museum will be sponsoring Civil War Days on July 30, 2016. Our own members Dave Fox and Bob Shuman will be speaking. Reenactors from the 79th PA, the 1st Virginia Irish Brigade, and the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment will be present. The events will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. rain or shine. Civil War photos, guns, and other artifacts will be on display as well.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, May 10, 2016 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for May include: Chicken Parmesan, Key West Salmon, and 6 oz. Flat Iron Steak. A vegetarian entree is not listed; but, if you would prefer "vegetarian", please note it in the *Comment Section* when making your reservation via the website. The Inn will accommodate the request. Soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995 no later than noon Friday, May 6, 2016, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

****PLEASE NOTE: IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU PAY IN THE APPROPRIATE DOLLAR AMOUNT. WE DO NOT HAVE A CHANGE DRAWER. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT \$50 OR \$100 BILLS IN PAYMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



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The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

Summer 2016



www.firstdefenderscwr.us

Round Table Business

The May 10, 2016, First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Inn at Reading by President Craig Breneiser. Member Greg Stull offered a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 60 members and guests in attendance.

This meeting concluded our 19th campaign since the round table's inception. Craig announced that Gary Hertzog would be taking over the book raffle duties as a result of Cate Kennedy's decision to step down. He also introduced a guest, Bob Fields, as well as a new member, Rob Reardon. He reminded us that Bob Sharitts had been hospitalized but was now home recuperating.

Lori Border, treasurer, and Barbara Shafer, meal captain, also resigned from their respective positions. Kathy Little will be taking over for meal captain. The election of officers was held. Many chose to remain in their current positions. Resignations were given by Cate Kennedy, Barbara Shafer, and Lori Border. Names and information of current officers is found at the end of this newsletter. Joe Schaeffer moved to accept the slate of candidates while Rodney LaPearl seconded the motion which was accepted unanimously.

Vice President

Mark Quattrock announced that thirty name tags had been ordered and distributed. He anticipates taking new orders in August and September.

In the area of preservation, Mark announced that we had \$778.00 in the preservation fund not including the night's proceeds from the book raffle. He informed us of three Civil War Trusts's matching grants: Crossroads at 5:1 leverage; Appomattox at 8:1, and Power's Hill (Gettysburg) at 4:30 to 1. Our speaker for the evening, Don Scott, suggested a donation to the Camp William Penn Museum as well. \$100.00 was sent for each of these worthy causes for preservation.

Treasury

Treasurer **Lori Border** reported a beginning balance as of March 8, 2016, of \$2,914.60. Receipts totaled \$2520.30 with expenses of \$2455.44 leaving a balance of \$2979.46 on May 10, 2016.

Preservation had \$778.00 in its account.

Vice president, **Tim Antosy**, volunteered to take over the treasurer's position in the new season.

Membership

Membership chair Dave Sweigert announced that we finished the campaign with 103 members. Dave added that 72.5 people per event attended. These results are quite encouraging, and we hope for even more beginning our 20th campaign in September.

AAP

Barbara Shafer reported on the news from our Adopt-a-Position at Gettysburg. Seven round table members volunteered in April to check on and clean up the monuments that we are currently assigned. It was determined that the 6th PA monument needs to have painting done to the fences in the fall. Volunteers also decided to take on two more monuments.



Upcoming Events:

The Reamstown Historical Society Museum will be sponsoring Civil War Days on July 30, 2016. Our own members Craig Breneiser, Dave Fox, and Bob Shuman will be speaking. Reenactors from the 79th PA, the 1st Virginia Irish Brigade, and the 1st

Pennsylvania Regiment will be present. The events will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. rain or shine. Civil War photos, guns, and other artifacts will be on display as well.



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