

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2014 Beginning our 18th Campaign



www.firstdefenderscwrtr.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 11th.

The capital is facing an attack by hostile forces. There are smoking ruins in the heart of a major commercial city. The president paces nervously, not certain when and where the next blow may fall. People are scared, angry or just bewildered.

September 11th, 1864 was an uncertain time for Jefferson Davis and the Southern Confederacy. Atlanta lay in ruins. The massive Yankee host was pushing against Richmond from different directions. The euphoria of 1861-63 was gone by the late summer of 1864, and, though Davis did not yet know it, the Confederate States of America had only months to live.

A nod to Dennis Frye, author of *September Suspense*, for the "inspiration" of the preceding paragraphs. It seems apropos to "borrow" from Dennis, though, since he will be the speaker for the opening engagement of the 18th Campaign of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table.

September 1864 saw some new faces in the Union and Confederate war efforts, joining those who had already been forged in battle. 150 years later, there are some new faces leading *your* round table who are joining the veterans of many a previous campaign. These are the faces of the Board of Directors.

Mark Quattrochio and Tim Antosy will both be serving as vice presidents for the campaign, and each will be working closely with other Board members. Mark will work with our veteran Trip Committee leaders, Don Stripling and Ron Emge, Program Chair Errol Steffy and Preservation Chair Cathy Kennedy. Tim will focus on "getting the word out" about the round table in concert with Secretary and Newsletter Editor Linda Zeiber and our "rookie" Membership Chair Dave Sweigert. Rounding out the leadership team is our veteran Treasurer Lori Border and a new "commissary" addition, Meal Captain Barbara Shafer. Finally, we are fortunate to retain the experience, wisdom and sage advice of our "president emeritus," Joe Schaeffer. Just

as Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee had to depend upon subordinate commanders and staff officers to make their armies function, these folks are instrumental in ensuring the round table continues its tradition of excellence. Please, take a moment to thank them for their service! It is an honor to be a member of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table, and I am humbled by the even greater honor to serve as your president as we embark on our 18th Campaign. Thank you for the trust you have bestowed upon me... it's going to be a great year! The Union Forever!



Round Table Business

Treasurer's Report

Lori Border presented her report at the July 17 board meeting. Our balance as of July 2014 stood at \$634.28 with \$273.00 ear-marked for preservation and \$63.00 for trips. The unencumbered balance as of July 17, 2014, is \$228.28.

Membership

It's time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2014-2015. The Board met in July and decided not to raise annual membership dues, but we will increase the fees for guests attending meetings. Guests will pay \$35.00 with \$25 covering the cost of the meal and the remaining \$10.00 going toward speaker costs. If, however, the guest chooses to join the round table, the \$10.00 will be credited toward the membership fee. We feel fortunate to have brought and continue to bring top notch speakers for our meetings. We believe the increase for guests is nominal and will not have an adverse effect on members.

Please fill out the attached membership form, and return it with your check as soon as possible. The deadline for payment is October 15, 2014. If you plan to pay your dues in person at the September or October meeting, please be sure to fill out **the renewal form** and **bring it along** with your payment.

Thank-You's from Civil War Trust

The Round Table has received two thank-you notes from the Civil War Trust. The first was thanking us for the \$500.00 donation to Gettysburg in honor of Ed Bearss. The second was to thank us for the \$600.00 donation for the "Four Battlefields". These generous gifts are made possible by our members' generosity of book donations, ticket purchases, and cash gifts for the monthly book raffle. Keep up the good work during our new campaign and help save more land.

OCTOBER 25 BUS TRIP

"Philadelphia & the Civil War" is our theme for the October trip. Registrations have been coming in throughout the summer. If you plan to be part of the group traveling to the City of Brotherly Love, it would be wise to get your registration and check in as soon as possible so you won't be left out. The trip flyer/registration form can be found on our website, www.firstdefenderscwrtr.us.

ADOPT-A-POSITION

The First Defenders are participating in the GNMP Adopt-A-Position program. We have adopted 2 sites – General Gregg’s Cavalry Shaft on the East Cavalry Field and the 18th PA Cavalry Monument on Big Round Top. On Thursday, October 9 we will be traveling to Gettysburg to work on these 2 sites, beginning w/ the Gregg site at 10:30 AM. In addition to these 2 sites, we will also be working on 2 sites adopted by Barb Shafer – 6th PA Cavalry and the 8th PA Cavalry. So it will be a busy day working on this sacred ground. Time permitting we may even do some Gettysburg shopping.

We’ll start the day by carpooling from a Reading area location. If you would like to join us or need more info, contact Don Stripling at 610.750.3998.

The Program for September: Dennis Frye Topic: Harper's Ferry Under Fire

Author & Historian: Dennis Frye - 2nd program - Today is the 152nd anniversary of Special Order 191 that changed the War.

Dennis E. Frye is the Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Writer, lecturer, guide, and preservationist, Dennis is a prominent Civil War historian. Dennis has numerous appearances on PBS, The History Channel, The Discovery Channel, and A&E as a guest historian, and he helped produce Emmy award-winning television features on the Battle of Antietam, abolitionist John Brown, and Maryland during the Civil War. Dennis is one of the nation’s leading Civil War battlefield preservationists. He is co-founder and first president of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and he is co-founder and a former president of today’s Civil War Trust, from whom he received the Trust’s highest honor - the Shelby Foote Award. Dennis is a tour guide in demand, leading tours for organizations such as the Smithsonian, National Geographic, numerous colleges and universities, and Civil War Round Tables. Dennis also is a well-known author, with 92 articles and eight books. *Harpers Ferry Under Fire* received the national book of the year award from the Association of Partners for Public Lands; and *September Suspense: Lincoln’s Union in Peril*, was awarded the 2012 Laney Book Prize for distinguished scholarship and writing on the military and political history of the war. Dennis has written for prestigious Civil War magazines such as *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *America’s Civil War*, *Blue & Gray Magazine*, *North and South Magazine*, and *Hallowed Ground*, and as a guest contributor to the *Washington Post*. Dennis served as an Associate Producer for the Civil War movie *Gods and Generals*, during which he recruited and coordinated nearly 3,000 reenactors for the film. Dennis resides near the Antietam Battlefield in Maryland, and he and his wife Sylvia have restored the home that was used by General Burnside as his post-Antietam headquarters.

Reservations for the September 9, 2014 Meeting:

Dinner Reservation Procedures:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for September include: Penne with Garlic Sauce and vegetables (Vegetarian), Broiled Lemon Dill Haddock, Chicken Dyonnaise and Flat Iron Steak with Mushroom Glaze. Meal choice is served with Rice Pilaf and Vegetable Medley, Salad and Dessert. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995 no later than noon Friday, September 5, 2014, 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.**

2014-2015 Program Schedule

September 9, 2014: Dennis Frye	Harper's Ferry Under Fire
October 14, 2014: Mark Quattrock	Confederate States Medical Service
November 11, 2014: Phillip Greenwalt	Sticking with the Colors
December 9, 2014: Brian Jordan	Union Veterans and Their Unending War
January 13, 2015: A. Wilson Greene	April 2, 1865: Day of Decision
February 10, 2015: Joe Schaeffer	Fort Fisher
March 10, 2015: Mike Gabriel & Ron Rhein	Wilson's Creek
April 14, 2015: Edwin C. Bearss	Appomattox
May 12, 2015: Mark D. Grim, Jr.	Brig. Gen. John F. Hartranft

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



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Programs	Dave Sweigert	Davesweig@aol.com
Adopt a Position/Trips	Don Stripling	donstripling54@msn.com
Programs/Web	Errol Steffy	esteffy1741@comcast.net

FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

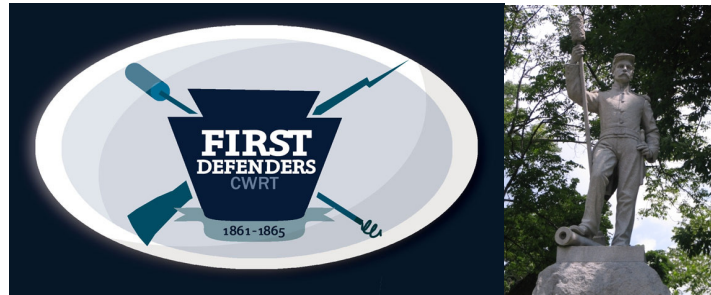
Membership payment of **\$25 is due by October 14, 2014.**

The check should be made payable to **The First Defenders CWRT** and mailed to:

**David Sweigert
2906 Curtis Road
West Lawn, PA 19609**

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October 1864. Grant has settled into a siege around Petersburg. Sherman has taken Atlanta, but Hood's Army of Tennessee has escaped to fight again, and nothing much seems to be happening in north Georgia. The presidential election is only a month away, and the outcome is anything but certain. The only real good news for the North seems to be coming from the Shenandoah Valley where Sheridan is gleefully wrecking and burning almost everything, and Early's army has only a few weeks of life remaining (although it will still have enough offensive power to bring the Yankee army to near-disaster at Cedar Creek). October 1864 is a time of suspense both north and south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

The First Defenders, however, is not laboring under a similar aura of suspense. Wow! What a kick-off program in September with Dennis Frye keeping more than 75 of us rather spellbound (and entertained!) for over an hour (check the website under "Programs" for a field briefing of Dennis' program).

Thus far, more than 60 First Defenders have re-enlisted for the coming campaign, and we've also recruited over a half-dozen "fresh fish" (i.e.: new members). And an exciting campaign it is shaping up to be! We can plan to see lots more action in the coming months, and we need to keep our ranks filled. Imagine our strength if each member could muster in another recruit!

Thanks for your continuing support. We look forward to seeing everyone at the October 14th program!

Round Table Business

The 18th campaign of the Round Table began on September 16, 2014, with 77 members and guests gathering at the Inn at Reading. President Craig Breneiser called

the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and member Greg Stull offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice President Tim Antosy briefly discussed his Facebook page which features round table news and offers links to other Civil War sites of interest. He encouraged everyone to look it over. Vice President Mark Quattrock reported that he is working on programs and preservation calling our attention to a handout that he drafted with updates on current preservation efforts. He will keep us informed regarding preservation.

Harper's Ferry currently has a 20:1 grant for preservation dollars. Our speaker, Dennis Frye who is chief historian at Harper's Ferry, took no honorarium for his program so the Round Table donated \$250 to that site which turned into \$5,000. Before his program, Dennis discussed the history of Civil War Trust (Dennis was a founding member of the organization.) and how that one group alone has donated over \$250,000,000 to buy battlefield lands.

Treasurer's Report

Lori Border presented her report at the July 17 board meeting. Our balance as of July 2014 stood at \$634.28 with \$273.00 ear-marked for preservation. The current balance as of September 9, 2014, is reported to be \$1,057.28 with \$756.00 earmarked for trips.

Membership

It's time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2014-2015 if you have not done so. Please fill out the attached membership form, and return it with your check as soon as possible. The deadline for payment is October 15, 2014. 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.

Dave Sweigert reported that he had 66 paid memberships as of the September meeting and reminded all that dues are used to pay for speakers. Six new members were introduced and given a warm welcome.

An Important Note From Errol Steffy--

The Programs' Committee is looking for members who are willing to do a program, especially anyone who has never done one before, sometime during the 19th and 20th campaigns which will run from September 2015 through May 2017. Please contact anyone on the committee if you are interested in making a presentation.

Errol also pointed out some changes to our website. Old newsletters going back to the first campaign will be made available. In time all past newsletters will be on the site. Also our organization now has its own email address: firstdefenderscwrt@gmail.com. Errol and Craig have access to this site at this time.

Preservation Corner

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's edition of Preservation Corner on behalf of the Preservation Committee. Each month we will all of you up to date with the latest news on Preservation along with grants and projects that are in the works and where it would be great for us in getting the "biggest bang for the buck" for our donations.

This month we will talk about the Civil War Trust and the matching grants they are currently offering. I am pleased, to announce a check has been sent to the Trust in the amount of \$250 in Honor of Dennis Frye to be put towards the \$20-\$1 matching grant they have for Harpers Ferry. With the money the Civil War Trust is matching it is a total of \$5,160 that is going towards preserving Harpers Ferry. What a great way to start the season!

There are two more matching grants we will keep everyone updated on. The first one is the North Anna River and the matching grant the Trust has of \$10-\$1. The Trust is trying to acquire 665 acres of the Jericho Mills portion of the battlefield. The second one is Lee's Headquarters in Gettysburg and a matching grant of \$5-\$1. The Trust is acquiring the Headquarters, the land next door to the Headquarters where the Quality Hotel is located and across the street where the Appalachian Brewery is located. The plan is to tear down the Hotel and the Brewery and to restore the Headquarters and the land back to its 1863 appearance.

That's all for this month. Until next time.

Ed's Artifacts

Member Ed Ewing had six of his artifacts on display for September's meeting. These included a rare powder flask that predates the Civil War; Lucifers which were Civil War matches; an 1851 New York Militia capbox that was embossed with the seal of New York and the nickname "Excelsior"; an 1840's boot pistol which has a cast steel barrel in a 34 caliber; collapsible candlesticks still containing wax from the war; and a camp ax imprinted with 'US 1863' on the handle making it rare since it is marked. We always learn from the items that Ed shares with us, and we thank him for sharing his collection with us each month.

OCTOBER 25 BUS TRIP

Ron Emge reported that five members signed up for the October trip prior to the meeting. A few seats remain, but he urged anyone still interested in going on this bus trip to act quickly. "Philadelphia & the Civil War" is our theme for the October trip. The trip flyer/registration form can be found on our website, www.firstdefenderscwr.us.

ADOPT-A-POSITION

The First Defenders are participating in the GNMP Adopt-A-Position program. We have adopted 2 sites – General Gregg's Cavalry Shaft on the East Cavalry Field and the 18th PA Cavalry Monument on Big Round Top. On Thursday, October 9 we will be traveling to Gettysburg to work on these 2 sites, beginning w/ the Gregg site at 10:30 AM. In addition to these 2 sites, we will also be working on 2 sites adopted by Barb Shafer – 6th PA Cavalry and the 8th PA Cavalry. So it will be a busy day working on this sacred ground. Time permitting we may even do some Gettysburg shopping.

We'll start the day by carpooling from a Reading area location. If you would like to join us or need more info, contact Don Stripling at 610.750.3998.

From Mike Straus--

(My loyal contributor Mike Straus forwarded this excerpt from Dan Toomey's book, *The War Came By Train*. Dan was our guide for the trip to Baltimore last June as those who went on that excellent trip will recall. Mike thought this excerpt fit well with the theme of October's program of Civil War medicine which is being presented by Mark Quattrock. As always, thanks, Mike.)

July 4, 1864

Confederate cavalry struck the B&O bridges at Patterson's Creek and South Branch. The defenses at South Branch were a showcase for the technologies developed to protect the B&O railroad during the Civil War. A blockhouse had been constructed on the west bank of the river to protect the bridge. One of the armored cars built at Mount Clare {Baltimore} the year before stood on the tracks not far from the blockhouse. It contained a 12 lb. gun and a crew of seven from Company K of the Second Maryland Potomac Home Brigade. The "Railroad Monitor" had a six-inch porthole at either end to minimize exposure to the crew when the cannon was fired and a metal hatch cover operated with a lever to seal the hole when not firing. The crew entered through a trapdoor in the floor. The blockhouse was manned by one company from the 153rd Ohio National Guard.

Imboden's Brigade attacked with a force of about 1,500 men and 3 pieces of artillery. Despite a severe shelling, the troops in the blockhouse managed to hold out. Unable to reach a position from which he could shell the bridge, Imboden had his gunners concentrate their fire on the ironclad railroad car. The first shot missed. The second shot struck the roof and bounced off. The third shot unbelievably passed through the six-inch porthole and at the same time struck the lever in such a way as to slam the hatch cover shut. The shell bounced around inside the car. The burning fuse filling the car with acrid smoke as its occupants frantically attempted to exit through the trap door in the floor. In an act worthy of the Medal of Honor, Corporal John W. Croston tried to pick up the sputtering projectile and heave it out of the car, but the heat from the shell burned his hands and face. The brave soldier managed to dive through the escape hatch as the shell exploded which gave him severe powder burns on his face, hands and neck. The interior of the car caught on fire and soon the battery's magazine erupted in a series of secondary explosions. Croston was sent to the U. S. Army Hospital in nearby Clarysville, Maryland. His attending physician noted that he had originally been treated with a mixture of olive oil and chimney soot and "presented a hideous aspect." Remarkably, Corporal Croston made a full recovery and returned to duty on July 22.

The War Came By Train

Page #200

Daniel Carroll Toomey

October's Program Vice President Mark Quattrock, Speaker

Topic: : Beyond the Myth: The Confederate States Medical Service.

When it comes to the Civil War medicine, there is a great deal of myth, especially when it comes to Confederate States Medical Service. Despite Hollywood and movies like *Gone With The Wind* this presentation is going to show the real story of the CS Medical Dept, how it organized, the challenges that were faced and its accomplishments. We will also talk about some of the 8,000 people that served in the Medical Service.

Reservations for the October 14, 2014 Meeting:

Dinner Reservation Procedures:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for October include: Chicken Marsala, Crab cake, Roasted Pork Loin with wine and herb au jus, Fettuccini Alfredo (vegetarian). These meals are served with garlic mashed potatoes and a vegetable medley, soup and dessert. Rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 (\$35 for guests) inclusive for meals.

If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Barbara

Shafer at 484-336-8995 no later than noon Friday, October 10, 2014,

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 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 WITH 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 IN THIS MATTER.****

2014-2015 Program Schedule

October 14, 2014: Mark Quattrock	Confederate States Medical Service
November 11, 2014: Phillip Greenwalt	Sticking with the Colors
December 9, 2014: Brian Jordan	Union Veterans and Their Unending War
January 13, 2015: A. Wilson Greene	April 2, 1865: Day of Decision
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Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net

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Vice President	Mark Quattro	mquattro@yahoo.com
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Programs	Dave Sweigert	Davesweig@aol.com
Adopt a Position/Trips	Don Stripling	donstripling54@msn.com
Programs/Web	Errol Steffy	esteffy1741@comcast.net
First Defenders CWRT		firstdefenderscwr@gmail.com

FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership payment of **\$25 is due by October 14, 2014.**

The check should be made payable to **The First Defenders CWRT** and mailed to:

**David Sweigert
2906 Curtis Road
West Lawn, PA 19609**

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

November 2014



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A recent e-mail from a First Defenders member contained two interesting points, the first of which is the subject of this month's message and which I shall describe under the broad heading of "fraternity" (referring to common interests; not the "Animal House" kind of fraternity!).

Anyone who has read or seriously studied the Civil War cannot help but wonder about the factionalism and lack of cooperation among military leaders on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line. The divisiveness within the Army of the Potomac is legendary, and the internecine "warfare" within Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee played a far larger part in the eventual Southern defeat than many might recognize (after all, that army repeatedly managed to pull defeat from the jaws of victory, and its one true battlefield triumph at Chickamauga was squandered when senior commanders were more interested in fighting each other than their Yankee counterparts!). On the whole, a lack of vision, cooperation and fraternity among senior officers North and South, many of whom were well-acquainted and friendly with each other in the pre-war "Old Army," ultimately weighed heavily on the course and outcome of the Civil War.

Within the First Defenders, I notice a similar (although not nearly as momentous or destructive) lack of fraternity. Many of us have developed relationships with other members, and we often sit and talk with the same folks month after month. There is, of course, nothing wrong with this; however, we (and I very much include myself in this) do not always take the time to welcome a guest or new member or chat with others. As a result, there are potential friendships that go unexplored, mutual interests are undiscovered and opportunities to expand our organizational outreach go wanting.

Wouldn't it be great if we take a lesson from those we study during our programs to improve our fraternity in an effort to better our organization and ourselves? I have never been the most outgoing person, I

know (strange for someone once interested in a political career!), but I am making an early New Year's resolution to meet and get to know at least one other member at every meeting. I'd be honored if each of you would consider making the same resolution; it will bring a new light into your own life while infusing a new spirit into our great organization!

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The October 14, 2014, meeting began at 6:30 p.m. with 60 members and guests gathered at the Inn at Reading. President Craig Breneiser called the meeting to order, and Member Greg Stull offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The first item on the agenda was to offer get-well wishes to Dave Unger, Jan Fisher and Tim Antosy. We hope that these gentlemen are recuperating and feeling better. Craig then called on the committee chairs to give updates.

Treasurer's Report

Lori Border reported that our balance as of September 9, 2014, stood at \$1,057.28 with \$204.00 ear-marked for preservation. Receipts totaled \$4,318.00 with expenditures of \$3,211.36 leaving a balance of \$2,163.92. The sum of \$204.00 is set aside for the upcoming field trip.

Membership

Dave Sweigert reported that he had 92 paid memberships as of the October meeting and reminded all that dues are used to pay for our speakers. October's meeting was the deadline for paying membership dues so, if you have not yet done so, please take care of this matter now. The form for membership is available on the website.

Programs

Errol Steffy announced that Ed Bearss program in April has been moved to Monday, April 20, 2015. This will be the date for the April meeting since Ed experienced a scheduling conflict. Errol is confident that it is early enough to change the meeting date, and the membership agreed.

The Programs Committee is looking for members who are willing to do a program, especially anyone who has never done one before, sometime during the 20th campaign which will run from September 2016 through May 2017. Please contact anyone on the committee if you are interested in making a presentation.

Errol also pointed out some changes to our website. Old newsletters going back to the first campaign will be made available. In time all past newsletters will be on the site. Also our organization now has its own email address: firstdefenderscwr@gmail.com. Errol and Craig have access to this site at this time.

Preservation

Preservation Chair Cate Kennedy conducted the monthly book raffle acknowledging that the evening's program presenter Mark Quattroch had donated seven books for the October book raffle. All of the books had topics related to Civil War medicine in keeping with Mark's program about Confederate medicine. Mark will be giving us information about the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust in the near future.

Trips

Ron Emge shared information about the proposed trip in June which was to have been the Booth Escape Route. However, the cost of this trip is estimated to be \$170 and of 16 hours duration. After soliciting possible attendance from the membership present at the meeting, only nine thought they would attend. Ron reported that the trip committee has an alternate plan in mind which would be to New York City guided by Barnet Schechter. Barnet has spoken to the round table in the past and is an author and expert historian of New York City.

Ron also announced that there are still 7 seats remaining for Saturday's trip to Philadelphia.

Meal Captain

Barb Schafer asks that anyone having difficulty making meal reservations on our website to contact her as soon as possible. Remember that you can always call Barb with your reservations. Be sure to check on the procedure and due date and time at the end of the newsletter.

Newsletter

Linda Zeiber reminded everyone that the deadline for all newsletter submissions is one week following the monthly meeting. The November newsletter will be slightly later than usual because of a scheduled vacation.

Ed's Artifacts

Member Ed Ewing had many Massachusetts artifacts on display for October's meeting. These included a shako from the 3rd Massachusetts Infantry made by the Bent & Brush company, the largest outfitter in the United States at the time. He reminded us that New York and Massachusetts had organized militias during the Civil War. He also had on display an 1839 belt plate marked "MS" for Massachusetts, but it was never issued. He had several other belt plates as well. He also displayed discharge papers and a sword sash. We always learn from the items that Ed shares with us, and we thank him for sharing his collection with us each month.

ADOPT-A-POSITION

Armed with weed whackers, loppers and gloves, four First Defenders worked on four monuments in Gettysburg on Thursday, October 9. Our first monument was Gregg's Shaft located on East Cavalry Field, it is surrounded by a fence without a gate. That was our first challenge, to get into the area to perform our duties. The problem was solved with some muscle. We then worked on the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry, which had a lot of trimming to be done. Our third monument was the 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry located in a wooded area. Our last and most challenging monument was at the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry located near the Pennsylvania Monument. The area at the worm fence was brush and tangled vines, we did liberate a monument that is scheduled for repair. There are two maintenance men responsible for this type of work at Gettysburg. They are currently working on a monument that was scheduled for repair 45 years ago. Most likely, we will need to uncover the monument again in the future.

Our group had a question as to why the 8th Pa Cavalry statue was mounted on a tree trunk. Gary Hertzog answered that question. The tree trunk supports the weight of the stone horse and rider. All other equestrian statues made of stone are a *bas relief* where sculpture is set in the main part of the stone and is not "free standing."

The workforce First Defenders were Bruce Englehart, Gary Hertzog, Barbara Shafer and Don Stripling, Coordinator for AAP. We know the fenced area at Gregg's Shaft will need to be painted and fence at 8th Pa Cavalry will also need to be painted. If painting is not your thing, there is weed whacking and using the loppers and other trimming to be done. Please consider working on the sites in Spring 2015. The Park presented us with eye catching T-shirts and, hopefully, they will have enough of the limited edition for the additional First Defenders. If there is enough interest we could adopt more positions and do two groups - a weekday group and a weekend group. Look for more information from Don Stripling as to when this will be scheduled. Please contact Don at 610-750-3998 if you have any questions and/or interest.

November's Program **Phillip Greenwalt, Author and Historian**

Topic: Sticking with the Colors

Phill Greenwalt is co-author of *Bloody Autumn: The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864* and *Hurricane from the Heavens: The Battle of Cold Harbor* (both with Daniel Davis). Phill graduated from George Mason University with a M.A. in American History and also has a B.A. in history from Wheeling Jesuit University. He is currently an historian with the National Park Service at George Washington Birthplace National Monument and Thomas Stone National Historic Site. He started with the National Park Service as a historical interpreter intern at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. He currently resides in the historic Northern Neck of Virginia with his wife Adel and their rescue cat, Maya. By the fall of 1864, the Confederacy was hanging on by a thread. Large swaths of Southern territory was even actively held by Union forces or had been burnt and destroyed by the campaigns of 1864. Yet, around Petersburg and Richmond, especially, the proud Confederate Army of Northern Virginia remained in the trenches continuing to stalemate Ulysses S. Grant and the Union armies that besieged it. As their struggling nascent nation struggled to survive, what made thousands of men continue to "stick with the colors?" What made them continue to fight, starve, and for thousands die, when all signs pointed to defeat? What can we learn from their staunch belief in the generalship of Lee and the chance of success in dire situations? This talk will center on the rank and file of the Army of Northern Virginia and why in late 1864 and early 1865 thousands decided to "stick with the colors."

Phill will have the following 2 books for sale. **Both are co-authored by Dan Davis, and they sell for \$13 a piece but will do a promotion both for \$20:**

Bloody Autumn: The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864
Hurricane from the Heavens: The Battles of Cold Harbor

Dinner Reservations for the November 11, 2014 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for November include: Stuffed Rigatoni with Grilled Vegetables and Marinara Sauce (Vegetarian), Oven Baked Salmon with Onion Dill Sauce, Roast Chicken with Sage and Sausage Stuffing, and

Hickory Smoked Ham. Meal choice is served with Roasted Red Potatoes and Vegetable Medley, Salad and Dessert. Rolls, coffee, tea and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995 no later than noon Friday, November 7, 2014, 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**

2014-2015 Program Schedule

November 11, 2014: Phillip Greenwalt	Sticking with the Colors
December 9, 2014: Brian Jordan	Union Veterans and Their Unending War
January 13, 2015: A. Wilson Greene	April 2, 1865: Day of Decision
February 10, 2015: Joe Schaeffer	Fort Fisher
March 10, 2015: Mike Gabriel & Ron Rhein	Wilson's Creek
April 14, 2015: Edwin C. Bearss	Appomattox
May 12, 2015: Mark D. Grim, Jr.	Brig. Gen. John F. Hartranft



Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net

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Adopt a Position/Trips	Don Stripling	donstripling54@msn.com
Programs/Web	Errol Steffy	esteffy1741@comcast.net

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

December 2014



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I was working on my President's message for the newsletter, I received an e-mail from Vice President Tim Antosy reporting on his journey to "Remembrance Weekend" in Gettysburg. Here's what our "field correspondent" had to say...

In 1946 "Dedication Day" for Gettysburg was formally proclaimed by the U.S. Senate and House, and there have been 56 parades honoring that dedication. Since then, the Borough of Gettysburg calls it "Remembrance Weekend." It is the weekend closest to the November 19th date that President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address on November 19th 1863.

The town is all decked out for the celebration. Many of the townspeople dress as they would have back in the 1860's. On Saturday morning, there are many memorial services going on throughout the battlefield, many including military groups dressed in their uniforms. In the afternoon there is a huge military parade with thousands of re-enactors which starts on Baltimore Street and then bears right onto Steinwehr Avenue before ending at the National Cemetery. Later that evening, weather permitting, the cemetery is lit with illuminations on every grave. The fun part of this is on Friday night as many of the re-enactors are on the street and in uniform. One of my favorite things is many of the drummers and fife players get together, usually in the area of the Dobbin House, and play their music. If you shut your eyes and listen, you almost feel you are on the streets of Gettysburg in the summer of 1863. Many of the stores and restaurants are open, and it is just a very nice, relaxed atmosphere. There are also many authors either in the stores throughout the city or at the Visitors Center on Baltimore Street, and you can have good conversations with them about the battle of Gettysburg or anything else involving the Civil War.

This past year we also discovered a great event which is held at Christ's Church Lutheran Church at 30 Chambersburg Street, located just off the town square of Gettysburg. This church served as the 1st Corps Hospital as it was retreating through Gettysburg on the first day of the battle. There were over 150 wounded

and dying men in that church. During most of the summer and all the way to the middle of November, a wonderful performance is held on Saturday nights at 8:00 P.M. Members of the church and other local professional singers tell stories about the hospital and those terrible days and many of the songs from the Civil War are sung by the performers and the audience. It was very emotional and we really enjoyed it.

Remembrance Weekend is a great relaxed weekend and a must see if you research the Civil War.

In 2015, Remembrance Weekend will fall on November 21st. Lodgings are booked early, so if you want to take advantage of Tim's recommendation, make your reservations early!

Best wishes from Lisa and me to you and yours for the coming holiday season, and prayers for much peace and happiness as we forge ahead into the final months of the Civil War Sesquicentennial!

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The November 11, 2014, monthly First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting began at 6:30 p.m. with 68 members and guests gathered at the Inn at Reading. President Craig Breneiser called the meeting to order; Member Greg Stull offered a prayer calling to mind that it was Veterans' Day and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. The first item on the agenda was to offer get-well wishes to Jan Fisher and Gerry Zeiber and to welcome back Dave Unger and Tim Antosy. Craig then called on the committee chairs to give updates.

Treasurer's Report

Lori Border reported that our balance as of October 2, 2014, stood at \$2,163.92 with \$373.00 ear-marked for preservation. Receipts totaled \$2,576.00 with expenditures of \$1,959.33 leaving a balance of \$2,780.59.

Membership

Dave Sweigert reported that he had 98 paid memberships as of the November meeting and reminded all that dues are used to pay for our speakers. The deadline for paying membership dues has now passed, but it is never too late to rejoin or join for the first time. So, if you have not yet done so, please take care of this matter now. The form for membership is available on the website.

Programs

The Programs Committee is looking for members who are willing to do a program, especially anyone who has never done one before, sometime during the 20th campaign which will run from September 2016 through May 2017. Please contact anyone on the committee if you are interested in making a presentation.

Errol also pointed out some changes to our website. Old newsletters going back to the first campaign will be made available. Eventually, all past newsletters will be on the site. Also our organization now has its own email address:

firstdefenderscwr@gmail.com. Errol and Craig have access to this site at this time.

Preservation

Preservation Chair Cate Kennedy conducted the monthly book raffle. Mark Quattrock announced that our round table had made a donation to the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust in the amount of \$200.00.

Trips

Ron Emge announced that the spring field trip to New York City is being worked on. The New York City trip will be guided by Barnet Schechter. Barnet has spoken to the round table in the past and is an author and expert historian of New York City.

Joe Schaeffer offered thanks to Ron and Don Stripling for planning the October trip to Philadelphia. It was an excellent endeavor and much appreciated by those in attendance.

Ed's Artifacts

Member Ed Ewing brought two cavalry carbines for inspection at November's meeting. One was a 50 caliber Maynard Type II. It used both paper and brass cartridges. There were 5,000 made by the Massachusetts Arms Company in 1858. Because it had no forestock, the barrel got too hot making this firearm unpopular with the troopers. The Maynard also leaked gases when fired.

The second carbine was a 54 caliber Merrill also made by the Massachusetts Arms Company. Both of these weapons were used by Union as well as Confederate troops, and both dated to 1858. We always learn from the items that Ed shares with us, and we thank him for sharing his collection with us each month.

Preservation Corner:

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's Preservation Corner. This month there is big news to report in regards to preservation. First, I am pleased to announce the Roundtable has donated \$200 to the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust. C.V.B.T. is an organization based out of Fredericksburg, VA and has done a tremendous amount of work in helping to preserve the: Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, Spottsylvania, and Wilderness Battlefields and one of the groups instrumental in campaigning to keep Wall-Mart from building on the Wilderness Battlefield. The Roundtable has donated to them in the past and we are pleased to help the C.V.B.T. with the great work they are doing.

In other news, the Civil War Trust has made two huge announcements. The first announcement is two new preservation grants that are available. The first grant is a \$9.29 to \$1 matching grant for the Chancellorsville Battlefield. The portion of the field the Trust is looking to acquire is part of Jackson's Flank Attack. The total # of acres the Trust is looking at is 479.

The second matching grant is a \$31.11 to \$1 match that covers 304.1 acres with 8 battlefields in 3 states. The battlefields are in Virginia: Rappahannock Station, White Oak Road, Reams Station and Second Bull Run(Longstreet's Flank Attack.)

In Tennessee looking at Thompson's Station and Shiloh and in North Carolina the Bentonville Battlefield.

The second announcement the Civil War Trust has made is the announcement of their 1776 Campaign initiative. The Trust is now looking to branch out in to preserving not just Civil War battlefields but are now looking at Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields with the first battlefield they are looking at: the Battle of Princeton battlefield. There is more news forthcoming on this.

That's all for this month. Until next time.

Mark

Visiting Battlefields

by Linda Zeiber

My autumn pilgrimage to Gettysburg is scheduled for this week. I feel compelled to travel there several times each year as if Sirens were calling to me and I am unable to resist. I was reminded recently of my eternal dilemma about how to "feel" during my stays there (as well as on other battlefields) when, on one hand, the peace and scenic beauty is nearly overwhelming; but, on the other hand, how can one forget the horror that occurred on these lands that have been set aside for our study and remembrance? I was doing research at the Historical Society last year when I came across the following article from the *Berks-Schuylkill Journal*, one of Reading's daily newspapers during the Civil War. It addresses the conflict that I have always experienced in this matter:

"How Nature Covers Up Battle-Fields"

--Did I tell you ever among the affecting little things one is always seeing in these stirring war times how I saw on the Bull Run battlefield pretty, pure, delicate flowers growing out of emptied ammunition boxes, a rose thrusting up its graceful head through the tip of a Union drum--which doubtless sounded its last charge or retreat, as the case may have been, in that battle--and a cunning scarlet verbena peeping out of a fragment of bursted shell in which strange cup it had been planted? **Wasn't that peace growing out of war?** Even so shall the graceful and beautiful ever grow out of the horrid and terrible things that transpire in this changing but ever advancing world? Nature covers even battle-grounds with verdure and bloom. Peace and plenty soon spring up in the track of devastating campaigns, and all things in nature and society shall work out the progress of mankind and harmony of God's great designs.

--from *Berks-Schuylkill Journal*, October 17, 1863

December's Program

Historian: Brian Jordan:

Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan is Lecturer of Civil War Era Studies at Gettysburg College and Book Review Editor for *The Civil War Monitor*. He earned his Ph.D. with distinction in 2013 from Yale University, and his dissertation on the lives of Union veterans garnered the George Washington Egleston Prize (for Best U.S. History Dissertation at Yale) as well as the prestigious John Addison Porter Prize (for best work of scholarship in any field at Yale). In addition to numerous scholarly articles, essays, book chapters and reviews, he is the author of

Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War, forthcoming from W.W. Norton. His current project is a biography of Benjamin Butler.

Topic: *Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War*, which is a history of the reintegration of Union soldiers after the Civil War.

Dinner Reservations for the December 9, 2014 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for December include: Penne with Mushroom and Broccoli Alfredo (Vegetarian), Charbroiled Pork Chop with Ligonberry Sauce, Chef Carved Turkey with Corn Bread Stuffing, and Crab Topped Haddock. Meal choice is served with Potatoes and Vegetable Medley, Soup and Dessert. Rolls, coffee, tea and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995 no later than noon Friday, December 5, 2014, 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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Preservation	Cate C. Kennedy	Kenwycke1@aol.com
Meal Captain	Barb Shafer	bshafer54@comcast.net
Trips	Ron Emge	Emge301@comcast.net
Programs	Dave Sweigert	Davesweig@aol.com
Adopt a Position/Trips	Don Stripling	donstripling54@msn.com
Programs/Web	Errol Steffy	esteffy1741@comcast.net

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

January 2015



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the interesting (and unexpected!) discoveries I have made serving as the president of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table is that book authors and publishers occasionally reach out touting their latest releases. While we all get mail we really don't want, as an avid reader of Civil War literature for over five decades, I get excited about potential opportunities to add to my library (which, since I married Lisa, has become an actual part of the home instead of various piles of books and magazines stuffed in every imaginable nook and cranny!). Alas, even now I am running out of space.

Interestingly, though, these kind folks are willing to provide the Round Table with a *gratis* copy of their work once they find we raffle them off to our members with proceeds earmarked for preservation activities. The only thing they ask in return is that we include a book review in our newsletter and provide them with a copy for public relations purposes.

Although these opportunities crop up on an irregular basis, I currently have three books that have been provided for review. The first, *Rebel Yell: the Violence, Passion and Redemption of Stonewall Jackson*, by S.C. Gwynne was announced to our membership earlier this year, and a review of the book is included with this month's newsletter. (I have always thought reviews of books, plays, movies, etc., are really a matter of personal taste, so whether the reviewer and I have the same tastes is really a hit-or-miss proposition. With that in mind, my review of *Rebel Yell* tries to be more informational than critical.)

150 years after Sherman presented Savannah as a Christmas gift to Abraham Lincoln, as Hood's battered Army of Tennessee slogged its way south from George Thomas and the fields of Nashville, and as nearly 200,000 blue and gray troops suffered in the trenches around Petersburg, it almost defies imagination that something can be written about the Civil War that still stirs interest and piques curiosity. That it does is why the First Defenders are now in the midst of their 18th Campaign and our best days are yet to come!

For the Glory, and with Very Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season,

Craig

Round Table Business

The December 9, 2014, monthly First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting began at 6:30 p.m. with 60 members gathered at the Inn at Reading. President Craig Breneiser called the meeting to order; Member Greg Stull offered a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer's Report

Lori Border reported that our balance as of October 25, 2014, stood at \$2,780.59 with \$348.00 ear-marked for preservation. Receipts totaled \$1,950.00 with expenditures of \$2,196.88 leaving a balance of \$2,533.71.

Membership

Dave Sweigert reported that he had 98 paid memberships as of the November meeting and reminded all that dues are used to pay for our speakers. The deadline for paying membership dues has now passed, but it is never too late to rejoin or join for the first time. So, if you have not yet done so, please take care of this matter now. The form for membership is available on the website.

Programs

The Programs Committee is looking for members who are willing to do a program, especially anyone who has never done one before, sometime during the 20th campaign which will run from September 2016 through May 2017. Please contact anyone on the committee if you are interested in making a presentation.

Errol also pointed out some changes to our website. Old newsletters going back to the first campaign will be made available; the first and second campaigns are now on-line. Eventually, all past newsletters will be on the site. Also our organization now has its own email address: firstdefenderscwrt@gmail.com. Errol and Craig have access to this site at this time.

Meal Captain

Barbara Shafer asked that anyone having problems ordering meals should be sure to contact her. She also asked that we keep members Bob Troxell and Bob Shuman in prayers as they experience health problems. President Craig Breneiser added Gerry Zeiber's name as he, too, continues to face medical issues. Jan Fisher was welcomed back following his recent accident.

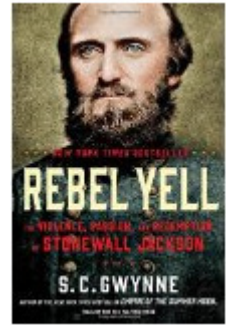
Preservation

Preservation Chair Cate Kennedy conducted the monthly book raffle. For the first time, a silent auction was held for three books, one a multivolume set. Cate made and donated a gift basket additionally and that, too, was part of the silent auction. In addition to the usual ticket sales, \$52.00 were spent on this.

Rebel Yell: the Violence, Passion, and Redemption of Stonewall Jackson

S.C. Gwynne (Scribner, October 2014)

In the wake of James Robertson's 1997 epic on the life of Thomas J. Jackson that runs nearly a thousand pages, one might ask whether there is really a need for another Stonewall biography. Is there any new research, discovery of long-lost first person accounts, a diary authored by the man or something else that we don't know? While Gwynne sheds no new light on the enigmatic Jackson, he has crafted an interesting and very readable narrative that will likely interest both Stonewall worshipers and those who may be somewhat less devout.



Considerably shorter than Robertson's work, *Rebel Yell* peaks out at under 700 pages including end notes, bibliography and index. Only one chapter exceeds 20 pages in length; most are in the 12-18 page range which makes for an easy half-hour read for most folks. Gwynne is a writer, not a professional historian, and his prose flows and paints pictures for the reader, and (thankfully!) is not a dry, academic literary exercise.

Included is a copious amount of end notes for each chapter, many of which provide additional details the author chose not to include in his narrative. Personally, I much prefer end notes to foot notes because they don't break my concentration on the story; at the end of each chapter, the reader can simply flip to them to check references or see what additional interesting nuggets may be available.

Gwynne has, unfortunately, fallen into a trap that many biographers face: falling "in love" with their subject. He explains away the Jackson malaise on the Peninsula during the Seven Days, for instance, and all but gives Jackson sole credit for the Confederate victory at Second Manassas. The only breakthrough scored by the Federals at Fredericksburg occurred against Stonewall's troops, but Gwynne parries the blame onto subordinate commanders. And, as most Jackson partisans are wont to do, there are the obligatory snide slaps at James Longstreet (who, it would seem, was a mere bystander at Second Manassas). Even Marse Robert is often relegated to basking in his legendary subordinate's glow.

There are also several glaring editorial lapses that are not uncommon today but which one would not expect from Scribner's copyediting staff. Joe Johnston is demoted two grades to major general during the Peninsular Campaign (he was a full general since mid-1861). Fitz John Porter apparently commands the Sixth Corps at Antietam (although no one apparently told William Franklin about that or filled the vacancy at the head of the Fifth Corps). Several silly lapses like this occur from time-to-time and will likely be corrected with future printings; however, they do not seriously affect Gwynne's storytelling.

Perhaps the most serious deficiency rests with the sources Gwynne consulted for his writing. He refers so often to Robertson's biography that one questions whether it wouldn't be better to just read that! Many other sources are far from primary, and some which are contemporary (most notably Henry Kyd Douglas' *I Rode with Stonewall*) are viewed with distrust by many modern historians.

Rebel Yell may not be the final word on Stonewall Jackson, but it is an enjoyable read that brings the legend to life in a very human way. As Civil War biographies go, especially on Jackson, Gwynne has risen well above the majority both past and present.

Trips

Don Stripling announced that the June 13, 2015, field trip to New York City is being worked on. The New York City trip will be guided by Barnet Schecter. Barnet has spoken to the round table in the past and is an author and expert historian of New York City.

The trip will begin at Grant's Tomb and end somewhere on the waterfront. Don and Ron Emge will keep us apprised as details are worked out.

Preservation Corner

Hi everyone and welcome to this month's Preservation Corner. This month we received two great Thank You letters. The first is from the Civil War Trust for the donation we made for Harpers Ferry in Dennis Frye's name. The second one was from the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust for the recent donation we made. Thanks to all of them for sending us Thank You letters.

Our January speaker is Will Greene from Pamplin Historical Park. Will and his staff have done a great job in both educating and preserving an important part of the Petersburg Battlefield dealing with the breakthrough of the 6th Corps on April 2nd, 1865. To help with their efforts the Roundtable has graciously donated \$200 to Pamplin Historical Park.

The Civil War Trust had come out with a new matching grant of \$14 to \$1 to help with preserving the Franklin Battlefield in Franklin, TN. Battlefield Preservation was a topic in the CBS Morning Show Sunday two weeks ago. They discussed the great work that is going on in reclaiming major portions of the Franklin Battlefield. They also, talked about Gettysburg with acquiring Lee's Headquarters and the 1776 Campaign the Trust started to preserve Revolutionary and War of 1812 Battlefields starting with Princeton

Finally, incorporated in the Dept of Defense expenditure bill that just was a Federal money to be used for organizations to to acquire matching grant money for organizations like Civil War Trust to do matching grants. Thank You to those who helped with approving this bill and making more funds available for preservation.

Until next time. Have a great day!

Mark



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Civil War Battlefields*

Civilwar.org

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Alexandria, Virginia

Susan Whitaker

Franklin, Tennessee

** Chairman Emeritus*

November 7, 2014

Mark S. Quattrock, VP
First Defenders CWRT of Berks Co
55 Commerce Dr
Wyomissing, PA 19610-1038

*Thank you
so much, Mr.
Quattrock!*

Dear Mr. Quattrock,

I have been in the battlefield preservation "business" for more than fourteen years now. Even after all that time, and the nearly 40,000 acres of hallowed ground you and I have saved together, I still get nervous when we send out an appeal for help, as we did recently for our \$20-to-\$1 match for 13 historic acres at Harpers Ferry.

We spend months negotiating with landowners, lining up matching grants, and securing other lead gifts. But in the end, you are the final piece of the puzzle: If – for whatever reason – you decide not to help, we risk losing that ground.

The great news today, however, is that – because you did decide to help with your recent wonderful gift of \$258.00 (processed on 9/19/2014 in honor of Dennis Frye) -- I can confidently tell you that we will be able to save this highly significant land at Harpers Ferry.

You came through, yet again, and with your generosity, you have proven that you are a "Hero to History." Believe me, not everyone (and not even every member of the Civil War Trust) is as generous as you are. So I really want you to know how much I appreciate you, and all you have done for this cause.

If I could say "thank you" in every language known to man, is still would not adequately convey to you how much we here at the Trust value your support.

I am often in awe when I think of the priceless legacy we are leaving for future generations. You should be, too, because you are a full partner in making it happen. Thank you again.

Very sincerely yours,

K Hasslinger
Kirsten L. Hasslinger

Membership and Development Assistant

Pursuant to IRS Code requirements for the substantiation of charitable contributions, no goods or services were provided in exchange for this gift. The Civil War Trust's federal tax ID number is 54-1426643. Please retain this letter as your receipt for tax purposes. Thank you.

ALBG Spring Seminar, April 10-11, 2015

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides at Gettysburg will be conducting a spring seminar entitled "The Union Right Flank: The Other High Ground". This is a walking tour and will include extensive walking over varying terrain. Included in the \$125.00 fee are tours/programs with Licensed Battlefield Guides, maps and materials, transportation and lunch.

See Linda Zeiber for brochures and specifics on this excellent tour. Information is also available at www.gettysburgtourguides.org/seminars.html or call 717-337-1709

January's Program

President & CEO, Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier: A. Wilson Greene

Topic: April 2, 1865: Day of Decision at Petersburg

We will focus on the conduct, context, and consequences of the assault by the Union Sixth Corps that "broke the backbone of the Rebellion" and led that night to the evacuation of Richmond and Petersburg. Most of the "Breakthrough Battlefield" is preserved in Pamplin Historical Park and is a National Historic Landmark.

Dinner Reservations for the January 13, 2015 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for January include, Lemon pepper shrimp skewers w/ rice, Chicken Parmesan over pasta, Petite New York strip steak w/ sautéed onions, rice and vegetable, or Penne pasta w/ garlic sauce and vegetables. Soup, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995 no later than noon Friday, January 9, 2015, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

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2014-2015 Program Schedule

January 13, 2015: A. Wilson Greene

February 10, 2015: Joe Schaeffer

March 10, 2015: Mike Gabriel & Ron Rhein

April 14, 2015: Edwin C. Bearss

May 12, 2015: Mark D. Grim, Jr.

April 2, 1865: Day of Decision
Fort Fisher

Wilson's Creek

Appomattox

Brig. Gen. John F. Hartranft



Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net

Contact Information

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Adopt a Position/Trips	Don Stripling	donstripling54@msn.com
Programs/Web	Errol Steffy	esteffy1741@comcast.net

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2015



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems almost incredible that we are moving into the final months of the long-awaited Civil War Sesquicentennial! Where did the time go? It seems like only a few days ago since we were honored to have Ed Bearrs speak to us on April 12th, 2011, about the events that occurred exactly 150 years earlier in Charleston Harbor, yet here we are on the cusp of the final campaigns and the road to Appomattox.

As I am writing this, Lisa and I are preparing for our annual sojourn to the Civil War Education Association's annual conference in Sarasota (an unusual venue for a Civil War event, granted, but certainly an eagerly-awaited WARM respite from a cold Pennsylvania winter!). As I look at the speakers' topics, there are some war-ending themes such as William "Jack" Davis' *Measuring the Giants: the Generalship of Grant and Lee*, Jeff Wert's *There is the Difficulty- Proper Commanders: Lee and the Crisis in Leadership from the Wilderness to Appomattox* and the aptly-titled *When Did the Civil War End?* by Frank Williams.

But, though the sesquicentennial may be ending, there is still so much more to learn. For example, Philip Leigh will discuss *Trading with the Enemy: the Covert Economy During the Civil War*, Karen Abbot will talk about an often-overlooked subject with *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War* and for those of us with Pennsylvania Dutch blood, there will be *Bullets, Bayonets and Beer: Germans in the American Civil War* from Joseph Reinhart. The War itself may have passed into history and its 150th anniversary is rapidly joining it, but there remains much to learn about this seminal event in American history. Indeed, the closing presentation by a panel of all of the conference speakers will discuss *Where Do We Go from Here: Reflections Beyond the Sesquicentennial*.

While it is too soon to know the feelings of leading writers, researchers and speakers about what the future holds for those of us who

have a passion for learning about the Civil War, we do know there is no shortage of top-notch presenters and topics in store for the First Defenders. Our reputation has preceded us, and our 19th *and* 20th campaigns are already shaping up to absolutely phenomenal! The sesquicentennial may be coming to an end, but our Round Table is just getting started and we hope you will all continue to be with us as we continue to carry the flag forward!

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The January 13, 2015, monthly First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting began at 6:30 p.m. with 65 members gathered at the Inn at Reading. President Craig Breneiser called the meeting to order; Member Greg Stull offered a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Craig asked those in attendance to remember Bob Troxell and Don Stripling who are facing medical issues personally or in his family.

Treasurer's Report

Lori Border reported that our balance as of December 9, 2014, stood at \$2,533.71 with \$379.00 ear-marked for preservation. Receipts totaled \$1,681.00 with expenditures of \$1,910.61 leaving a balance of \$2,304.10.

Vice Presidents' Report

Tim Antosy recently visited the Civil War Museum in Harrisburg and urged anyone who has not toured that facility to do so. He was struck by George Pickett's coat and map which are on display there. He also discussed a Civil War credit course being offered at RACC for seniors. The cost is \$160 inclusive. Tim introduced new member Bob Stopper.

Mark Quattrochio unfortunately could not attend the meeting because of car issues. We hope to see him in February.

Membership

Dave Sweigert reported that he had 99 paid memberships as of the January meeting...one short of a full company! We are reminded that all dues are used to pay for our speakers. The deadline for paying membership dues has now passed, but it is never too late to rejoin or join for the first time. So, if you have not yet done so, please take care of this matter now. The form for membership is available on the website.

Programs

Errol Steffy discussed next year's campaign, our 19th. He reported that we have some impressive speakers lined up beginning with Craig Symonds on September 19th. We are also reminded that Ed Bearss' annual April visit has been moved to Monday, April 20, 2015, due to a scheduling conflict. Ed will speak on the topic of Appomattox.

Errol also pointed out some changes to our website. Old newsletters going back to the first campaign will be made available. Eventually, all past newsletters will be on the site. Also our organization now has its own email address:

firstdefenderscwrt@gmail.com. Errol and Craig have access to this site at this time.

Meal Captain

Barbara Shafer asked that anyone having problems ordering meals should be sure to contact her. Please give her a call if you have any issue placing your reservations. Her email and phone number are listed at the end of the newsletter in two separate locations.

Preservation

Preservation Chair Cate Kennedy conducted the monthly book raffle. Many thanks to all who bought tickets. Remember, your dollars help purchase battlefield lands.

Ed's Artifacts

Ed returned this month with an assortment of items from the Petersburg Campaign in keeping with the speaker's topic for the evening. The array of minie balls came from Hatcher's Run Battle and Ream's Station. He displayed several minie balls still in the wood that they had pierced during the war. We had an opportunity to see a pocket watch cover from Fussell's Mill as well as a fabric star from the 211th PA Regiment that had fought at Petersburg. Ed explained that a star from the regimental flag was given to the first man on the parapet. This required a unanimous vote from the regiment to do so. Also on display were plates from the area around Petersburg where the 6th Corps fought.

Thank you, Ed, as always for sharing your artifacts and expertise.

Trips

The June 13, 2015, field trip to New York City is being worked on. The New York City trip will be guided by Barnet Schechter. Barnet has spoken to the round table in the past and is an author and expert historian of New York City.

The trip will begin at Grant's Tomb and end somewhere on the waterfront. Don and Ron Emge will keep us apprised as details are worked out.

ALBG Spring Seminar, April 10-11, 2015

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides at Gettysburg will be conducting a spring seminar entitled "The Union Right Flank: The Other High Ground". This is a walking tour and will include extensive walking over varying terrain. Included in the \$125.00 fee are tours/programs with Licensed Battlefield Guides, maps and materials, transportation and lunch.

See Linda Zeiber for brochures and specifics on this excellent tour. Information is also available at www.gettysburgtourguides.org/seminars.html or call 717-337-1709

Traveller, a Word Portrait by R.E. Lee

"If I were an artist like you I would draw a true picture of Traveller- representing his fine proportions, muscular figure, deep chest and short back, strong haunches, flat legs,

small head, broad forehead, delicate ears, quick eye, small feet, and black mane and tail. Such a picture would inspire a poet, whose genius could then depict his worth and describe his endurance of toil, hunger, thirst, heat, cold and the dangers and sufferings through which he passed. He could dilate upon his sagacity and affection, and his invariable response to every wish of his rider. He might even imagine his thoughts, through the long night marches and the days of battle through which he has passed. But I am no artist; I can only say he is a Confederate gray. I purchased him in the mountains of Virginia in the autumn of 1861, and he has been my patient follower ever since- to Georgia, the Carolinas, and back to Virginia. He has carried me through the Seven Days battle around Richmond, the second Manassas, at Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, the last day at Chancellorsville, to Pennsylvania, at Gettysburg, and back to the Rappahannock. From the commencement of the campaign in 1864 at Orange, till its close around Petersburg, the saddle was scarcely off his back, as he passed through the fire of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbour, and across the James River. He was almost in daily requisition in the winter of 1864-65 on the long line of defenses from Chickahominy, north of Richmond, to Hatcher's Run, south of Appomattox. In the campaign of 1865, he bore me from Petersburg to the final days at Appomattox Court House. You must know the comfort he is to me in my present retirement. He is well supplied with equipments. Two sets have been sent to him from England, one from the ladies of Baltimore, and one was made for him in Richmond; but I think his favourite is the American saddle from St. Louis. Of all his companions in toil, 'Richmond,' 'Brown Roan,' 'Ajax,' and quiet 'Lucy Long,' he is the only one that retained his vigour. The first two expired under their onerous burden, and the last two failed. You can, I am sure, from what I have said, paint his portrait."

Robert E. Lee

Recollections and Letters of General Robert E. Lee

By Captain Robert E. Lee

Page #83

**Many thanks to my faithful correspondent, Mike Straus, for once again sharing a small part of his reading with us. Mike has a great eye for excerpts that touch our souls.

February's Program

Member & Past President: Joe Schaeffer - 4th Program

Joe grew up in Douglassville and graduated from Daniel Boone H.S. He graduated from Bloomsburg University in 1975 with a degree in Secondary Education-Social studies. He has worked in the land title business for 35 years and owns Heartland Settlement Co. Joe and Jana have celebrated over 30 years of marriage. They have 3 children--Marci, Andrew, a member of the Round Table, and Caitlyn and 2 grandchildren. Joe has a lifelong passion for history, particularly the Civil War, with particular interest in Gettysburg and the Lincoln assassination.

Topic: *Fort Fisher & the Fall of Wilmington:* December 1864, Cape Fear, North Carolina. Wilmington is the lone port city still available to Rebel blockade runners. In the trenches of Petersburg, Virginia, Robert E. Lee's dwindling army is hanging on by a thread. The Wilmington and Weldon Railroad provides just enough supplies to keep the army alive. Lee tells Jefferson Davis that if Wilmington is lost, Richmond will fall. Lincoln wants Wilmington taken. Standing in his way and guarding the entrance to the Cape Fear River is Fort Fisher. U.S. Grant orders a

massive land and sea assault. One of the epic human dramas of the Civil War is about to play out. The life of the Confederacy hangs in the balance.

Dinner Reservations for the February 10, 2015 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for February include Cheese Ravioli with Basil Marinara (Vegetarian), Grilled Tuna Steak with Lemon Caper Sauce, Grilled Chicken with Alfredo Sauce over Pasta, and Beef Tips over Rice. Vegetable, soup, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995 no later than noon Friday, February 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.

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The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

March 2015



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I wrote my message last month, Lisa and I were packing for our annual trip to Florida to attend the Civil War Education Association's annual Sarasota conference. I mentioned that we were hoping to gain some insight from the "experts" in the field as to what we might anticipate in the coming months and years now that the sesquicentennial celebration is drawing to a close. We were fortunate to hear from folks like Bob Krick (the elder), Frank Williams, John Marzalek, Richard McMurry, William "Jack" Davis and old First Defenders friends Jeff Wert and Ed Bearrs. Their reflections on the future of Civil War studies is my subject of both this and next months' messages.

Several of the speakers reflected on the state of education in both high school and college where history has trended away from where it once was. Of course, at the high school level there is another generation or two of American history that needs to be packaged into four quarters. When I sat in Dave Kutch's junior high class in 1968-69, we only managed to reach the Gilded Age, never having gleaned anything about the World Wars, the nuclear era or the struggle for civil rights, and what we knew about Vietnam came not from class but from the nightly Huntley-Brinkley Report.

One would think college would be an appropriate setting to tackle the Civil War, but at the undergrad level my alma mater Penn State offers such topics this spring as *Vietnam in War & Peace* (which is kind of a southeast Asia civil war and reconstruction, I suppose), *Medieval Europe*, *History of Western Medicine*, *Family & Sex Roles in Modern History*, *History of Pennsylvania* (okay, I can see that one), *Early African History* and (my favorite!) *Baseball in Comparative History*. As close as PSU comes to the Civil War for its undergraduate students is *American Civilization to 1877* which, like my 8th grade history class, relegates the War and Reconstruction to, at best, the closing weeks of the course when

many are already planning for the next semester or, more likely, their next vacation break.

John Marzalek, Richard McMurry and Jack Davis also bemoaned the fact that as many Civil War era professors are heading into retirement, they are not being replaced. Rather, the focus has been (and judging from the Penn State curriculum is) on new and different historical interpretations of, well, something. Like beauty, it seems "history" is truly in the eyes of the beholder, and Civil War professors are becoming pilgrims in an unholy land.

Davis and Jeff Wert probably said it best, though. People are interested in stories about people (thus explaining the success of *People* magazine), and it is up to our generation to help pass those stories along. As we keep telling the tales and talking about the folks who made up a very colorful cast of characters 150 years ago, and even as the technologies for sharing them morphs from the traditional books and lectures to the modern technologies of blogs and Kindles, people will still be drawn, as we are, by the pivotal moment in American history: the Civil War. We need to keep the story alive!

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The February 10, 2015, monthly First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting began at 6:30 p.m. with 71 members and guests gathered at the Inn at Reading. President Craig Breneiser called the meeting to order; Member Greg Stull offered a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Craig asked those in attendance to introduce guests and to keep Denton Schucker in our thoughts as he recovers from surgery.

Treasurer's Report

Lori Border reported that our balance as of January 13, 2015, stood at \$2,333.33 with \$550.00 ear-marked for preservation. An additional \$188.00 was collected for preservation at February's meeting. Receipts totaled \$1,861.00 with expenditures of \$1,989.53 leaving a balance of \$2,204.85.

Vice Presidents' Report

Tim Antosy reminded members of information regarding a two-day seminar in Gettysburg being held March 20 and 21st. Details for registering can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Mark Quattrochio reported on a PBS mini-series that is upcoming about two nurses, one Confederate and one Union. He also gave the latest news on preservation. His report can be found later in this newsletter.

Membership

Dave Sweigert reported that there are currently 101 members of the round table. While there is always room for more, we are happy to have achieved this milestone. Forms for membership are available on the website.

Programs

We are reminded that Ed Bearss' annual April visit has been moved to Monday, April 20, 2015, due to a scheduling conflict. Ed will speak on the topic of Appomattox.

Meal Captain

Barbara Shafer asked that anyone having problems ordering meals should be sure to contact her. Please give her a call if you have any issue placing your reservations. Her email and phone number are listed at the end of the newsletter in two separate locations.

Preservation

Preservation Chair Cate Kennedy conducted the monthly book raffle. Many thanks to all who bought tickets. Remember, your dollars help purchase battlefield lands.

Ed's Artifacts

Ed returned this month with an assortment of items from the Wilmington Campaign which was the topic of the evening's program. The array of Confederate minie balls came from Fort Fisher. Additionally, Ed brought an assortment of officers' sword belts as well as belt plates one of which was an 1851 that had been in use until 1902. Ed considered this one exceptionally good-looking compared to many others. There was also an ink bottle from Fort Anderson which had been Fort Fisher's sister fort.

Thank you, Ed, as always for sharing your artifacts and expertise.

Trips

Plans for the June 13, 2015, field trip to New York City are now complete. The New York City trip will be guided by Barnet Schecter. Barnet has spoken to the round table in the past and is an author and expert historian of New York City.

The flyer is now available on the website. This is going to be a great trip so send your flyer and payment in ASAP to be assured of a seat.

Preservation Corner

Hi everyone:

There is some great news regarding preservation. With Will Greene's visit to the round table in January the round table had made a donation in the amount of \$200 to Pamplin Park in the name of Will Greene. Pamplin Park is a great place to visit and tells a very important story about the Union Army breaking through of Robert E Lee's Petersburg trenches on April 2nd, 1865.

The **Civil War Trust** currently has **4** matching grants that they are offering and they are:

- **Franklin**-This is a **\$14 to \$1** matching grant as the Trust tries to purchase and preserve 3 acres of the Franklin Battlefield.
- **Chancellorsville**-This is a **\$9.29 to \$1** matching grant with the Trust looking to purchase and preserve 479 acres of land that was part of Jackson's Flank Attack
- **Trevalian Station**-Involving the cavalry battle that took place in 1864 and involved Phil Sheridan. The matching grant is **\$5.34 to \$1** with the Trust looking to purchase and preserve 70 acres.
- **Brandy Station**-I need to make a correction. The matching grant for this one is **\$2.04 to \$1** with the Trust looking to purchase and preserve 33 acres of Fleetwood Hill.
- **Fredericksburg**-This is a \$1 to \$1 matching grant with the Trust looking to purchase and preserve the Slaughter Pen area of the battlefield.

One other correction I need to make is the matching grant the Trust had for Lee's Headquarters in Gettysburg is closed. With the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, they are currently working out the details for an upcoming project and I will keep you posted on this. There are no new updates from the other Preservation Groups.

Until next time,

Mark

Native Americans in the Civil War

The Lehigh County Historical Society is sponsoring a program entitled "Native Americans and the Civil War" on February 21, 2015 at 1 p.m. This presentation will be held at the Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum, 432 W. Walnut Street, Allentown, PA 18102. You may call 610.435.1074 for more information. Admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.

ALBG Spring Seminar, April 10-11, 2015

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides at Gettysburg will be conducting a spring seminar entitled "The Union Right Flank: The Other High Ground". This is a walking tour and will include extensive walking over varying terrain. Included in the \$125.00 fee are tours/programs with Licensed Battlefield Guides, maps and materials, transportation and lunch.

See Linda Zeiber for brochures and specifics on this excellent tour. Information is also available at www.gettysburgtourguides.org/seminars.html or call 717-337-1709

Mystery Letter

Mike Straus shared with us a Civil War letter given to him by a friend who came upon it in a boxed lot of goods purchased at an estate sale. The writer was

with the 93rd Regiment and wrote eloquently of his brother's death in this letter dated June 1, 1862 from Camp Chickamahoney.

Mike has done some research on the identity of the author, and we hope that he will report back to us when he knows more.

March Program

This is Mike Gabriel and Ron Rhein's tenth presentation to the First Defenders CWRT. Both are charter and long-term members. Along with Dr. David Valuska they served as the original committee of three to found the First Defenders CWRT and were its initial officers. Mike and Ron continued these responsibilities for over a decade and became President and Vice-President, respectively, when Dave stepped down.

Dr. Ron Rhein is a retired faculty member of Kutztown University, where he served his last seventeen years as Chair of the Department of Biology.

Dr. Mike Gabriel is also a faculty member at KU, and he served as the Chair of the Department of History for nine years. He is the author of three books on the American Revolutionary War.

Topic: Wilson's Creek

At dawn on August 10, 1861, Union forces under General Nathaniel Lyons met a combined Southern army composed of Missouri and Arkansas state troops and Confederate regulars led by Stirling Price and Benjamin McCulloch at Wilson's Creek in southwest Missouri in the second major battle of the Civil War. After six hours of intense fighting that cost Lyon his life, the Union troops retreated, but the exhausted Confederates were unable to pursue. This Northern defeat prevented them from securing Missouri and opened the state to four years of conflict.

Dinner Reservations for the March 10, 2015 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for March include Fettuccini Alfredo (Vegetarian), Cornbread Stuffed Chicken with Gravy, Crab Cake, or Brown Sugar Glazed Ham with Apple Brandy Sauce. Vegetable, soup, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995 no later than noon Friday, March 6, 2015, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

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REUNION / RECONCILIATION

Annual Seminary Ridge Symposium
March 20-22, 2015

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DAVID BLIGHT (*Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*).

Scheduled speakers include: Caroline Janney (*Remembering the Civil War: Reunion and the Limits of Reconciliation*), Barbara Gannon (*The Won Cause: Black and White Comradship in the Grand Army of the Republic*), Carl Eeman (*Encampment, A Novel of Race and Reconciliation*), Brian Matthew Jordan (*Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War*, appearing as part of the museum's HISTORY CONVERSATIONS BOOK SERIES.)

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES: All speaker programs, HISTORY CONVERSATIONS BOOK SERIES Sunday program, Gettysburg Seminary Ridge Museum admission (Cupola tour available at discounted rate and can be scheduled upon arrival), book-signing opportunities, welcome reception and Saturday-morning coffee. (Authors' books will be available for purchase.)

Registration Fee: \$175; Museum partners: \$150

Call 717-339-1300 to register.

Don't miss the REUNION/RECONCILIATION special exhibit in the museum through May 31.



The 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg hoped to be a national reunion in which veterans of the Union and Confederate Armies came to celebrate and remember together, but regional and racial reconciliation was far more difficult to achieve. Union veterans wanted the war to be remembered as a righteous victory for both union and emancipation; Confederate veterans chose to remember the bravery and loyalty of their soldiers fighting against invading federal troops, not to defend slavery. African Americans wanted their fellow Unionists to remember the hard-won victory of emancipation. Many feared that reconciliation was too high a price to pay. Others saw that sectionalism and disunity posed an even greater threat to the United States as a world power and felt it was time to forget, if not forgive differences. The anniversary event explicitly addressed remembrance, reunion and reconciliation, themes that still resonate with visitors to the Gettysburg Seminary Ridge Museum.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE:

Friday, March 20, 2015

7 pm: Keynote Address

David Blight - *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*

8:30 pm: Welcome Reception

Saturday, March 21, 2015

8:30 am: Coffee and Registration

9 am: Caroline Janney - *Remembering the Civil War: Reunion and the Limits of Reconciliation*.

10:15 Break

10:30 am: Barbara Gannon - *The Won Cause: Black and White Comradship in the Grand Army of the Republic*

11:45- 2 pm

Lunch, book signings and museum visits

The extended break provides time to visit the museum and view the

current exhibition, Reunion/Reconciliation, or walk the Historic Interpretive Trail. (Box Lunch and museum admission included in registration; please note any food allergies or restrictions on the registration form)

2pm: Carl Eeman - *Encampment, A Novel of Race and Reconciliation*

3:15 Break

3:30: Panel Discussion - The Meanings and Messages of Reconciliation a conversation with the Symposium Presenters led by Warren Eschbach, former Dean of Graduate Studies at Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center on the campus of Elizabethtown College, a center for theological, ministerial and leadership education related to the Church of the Brethren

Sunday, March 22, 2015

2 pm

History Conversations Book Series

Brian Matthew Jordan - *Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War*

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

April 2015



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month, I wrote about "where" the Civil War was going as the sesquicentennial draws to a close and the hyped-up focuses of the last four years fade into memory. Of course, the War will never fade for folks like us who eagerly snatch up every new book or magazine article and make annual pilgrimages to this battlefield or that related historic site even though we have been there many times before.

Both William "Jack" Davis and Jeff Wert have noted that publishers are rather less-interested in Civil War-era materials than they once were, and the full-length hardback tomes of past years may dwindle somewhat. But, there is a fledgling industry of more topic-specific books from smaller printing houses that continue to churn out new grist for the ever-turning wheels of our Civil War minds, and we have seen some evidence of these efforts from our speakers over the past several months. Too, there are new and interesting ways to keep the conversation going using the Internet, particularly the increasing number of blogs, to allow us to mine new or different nuggets in pursuit of our passion.

What, though, of the next generation? How do we stoke the interest of our successors? As James "Bud" Robertson has noted, how do our children write the next chapter of American history without an understanding of what has come before? If you look around during our monthly programs, you will certainly note the average age of our members has long-since passed that "thirtysomething" demographic cherished by TV advertisers. If we narrow the lens of our concern to just the First Defenders, how are we to remain a viable organization over the coming years? We are winding down our 18th Campaign; will there be a 25th? A 30th? A 50th? Many Round Tables are feeling that pressure today; will that be our fate, too?

Historian Richard McMurry has suggested it is for us, the Civil War Round Table, to carry on the tradition. He suggests we need to reach out

to our friends, our children, our schools, our churches and anywhere else we spend our lives to encourage more folks to learn about what may (with apologies to Tom Brokaw and those of the World War II era) truly be our "greatest generation." McMurtry has noted, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, that had the Union not prevailed in 1865, our national language would be German because a "Balkanized" assortment of United, Confederate and whatever-other states could never have come together in 1941-45 to defeat fascism.

Reach out. Make it your personal goal in the coming year to share your interest in the Civil War with someone else (including someone who thinks "Civil War" is actually a rock group!). If every one of us could bring just one guest to a Round Table program, that would be more than 100 people we will have touched. If they return or become members, that would be great! But, even if they don't, there would be that one brief, shining moment in their lives when they will have discovered something important about where they live and who they are. Reach out and give someone the opportunity to grow!

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The March 10, 2015, monthly First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting began at 6:30 p.m. with 59 members and guests gathered at the Inn at Reading. President Craig Breneiser called the meeting to order; Member Greg Stull offered a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Craig asked those in attendance to introduce guests and to keep Bob Shuman, Ed Welch, and Jim Struble in our thoughts and prayers as they recover from illness and surgeries. We welcomed new member Jim Burton. This brings membership to 102.

Treasurer's Report

Lori Border reported that our balance as of February 10, 2015, stood at \$2,204.85 with \$738.00 ear-marked for preservation. An additional \$201.00 was collected for preservation at March's meeting as noted by Cate Kennedy. Receipts totaled \$2,519.00 with expenditures of \$1,816.14 leaving a balance of \$2,907.71. Money deposited for the June 2015 trip to NYC totals \$496.00.

Vice Presidents' Reports

Mark Quattrochio revisited the issue of sending money to the Civil War Trust for battlefield preservation. One initiative has a 33:1 leverage for purchasing land for 8 different fields while Franklin, TN, has a 14:1 leverage. Mark moved that we send \$500.00 in Ed Bearss's honor for the first initiative and send \$100.00 for Franklin. Gerry Zeiber seconded the motion, and the membership unanimously voted for both contributions.

Tim Antosy told us of the death of the last child of a Civil War veteran. He learned of this through a paper that he subscribes to and recommends. The publication is *The Civil War Courier* based in Morristown, TN. For more information call, 423-581-5630.

Programs

Errol Steffy reminded us that Ed Bearss's annual April visit has been moved to Monday, April 20, 2015, due to a scheduling conflict. Errol encourages all present on the 20th to shake Ed's hand and thank him for his continuing interest in the First Defenders organization as well as for his lifelong endeavors to bring history alive for untold numbers and for his military service. Ed will speak on the topic of Appomattox.

Meal Captain

Barbara Shafer informed everyone that the deadline for ordering meals for April's meeting will be Thursday, April 16, 2015. This is a one-time only change in procedure.

Barbara Shafer asked that anyone having problems ordering meals should be sure to contact her. Please give her a call if you have **any** issue placing your reservations. Her email and phone number are listed at the end of the newsletter in two separate locations.

Preservation

Preservation Chair Cate Kennedy conducted the monthly book raffle with 6 books offered. The proceeds for the night were \$201.00. Many thanks to all who bought tickets. Remember, your dollars help purchase battlefield lands.

From Mark Quattrock...

Preservation Corner

Hi everyone and welcome to this month's Preservation Corner. The month of March was a huge month for the round table as we approved making two donations to the Civil War Trust. The first was in the amount of \$500 for 8 battlefields and a match of \$33.11 to \$1. This is a great opportunity and is far reaching in its scope. In addition, we agreed to make this donation in the name of Ed Bearss in appreciation for coming to the round table in April to speak about Appomattox. With the \$500 and the match our total contribution comes out to \$16,555.

The second donation we made was in the amount of \$100 for the \$14 to \$1 match they have for Franklin Battlefield. The Civil War Trust is trying to save 3 acres of the battlefield where some of the heaviest fighting took place. With our donation and the match our total contribution comes out to \$1400. Both checks were mailed to the Trust.

At this time we have \$200 still available to make one more donation for the Campaign Season. During the March meeting, David Fox made a suggestion to the membership about donating to the Civil War Trust and the match they have for Brandy Station Battlefield. The Trust is trying to save 33 acres of Fleetwood Hill and where JEB Stuart had set up his headquarters. The match on this is \$2.04 to \$1. I will have more information about this match to present to everyone at the April meeting for us to decide.

A special thanks goes to everyone who has supported and continues to support our preservation efforts by buying tickets for the book raffle or participating in the Silent

Auction. Without your support we wouldn't have the great season we had with donating to Preservation. Thank You for all that you do!

Until next time!

Mark

Trips

Plans for the June 13, 2015, field trip to New York City are now complete. The New York City trip will be guided by Barnet Schecter. Barnet has spoken to the round table in the past and is an author and expert historian of New York City.

The flyer is now available on the website. This is going to be a great trip so send your flyer and payment in ASAP to be assured of a seat. Ron Emge reported that there are only 17 seats remaining at this point. The reservation form and check for the cost of the trip should be sent to Don Stripling as explained on the "Trips" tab of the website.

ALBG Spring Seminar, April 10-11, 2015

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides at Gettysburg will be conducting a spring seminar entitled "The Union Right Flank: The Other High Ground". This is a walking tour and will include extensive walking over varying terrain. Included in the \$125.00 fee are tours/programs with Licensed Battlefield Guides, maps and materials, transportation and lunch.

See Linda Zeiber for brochures and specifics on this excellent tour. Information is also available at www.gettysburgtourguides.org/seminars.html or call 717-337-1709

Mystery Letter--the Saga Continues....

Roger Cotterill asked Mike Straus for more information about the Civil War letter given to him by a friend who came upon it in a boxed lot of goods purchased at an estate sale. The writer was with the 93rd Regiment and wrote eloquently of his brother's death in this letter dated June 1, 1862 from Camp Chickamahoney.

At this point, Mike is still playing his cards close to his vest and has more to do before sharing the identity of the writer with us. He did state that he expects the letter to be sent out of Berks County, though. Mike and all of us hope that the letter will be honored and cared for by the descendants of the writer when it finally finds its permanent home.

Dave Fox to Make Presentation

Dave Fox will be presenting a program to the Leesport Area Historical Society, at Bethany Church, 308 Main Street, Leesport, on June 22, 2015, with the meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. He will be speaking on Union General David McMurtrie Gregg. Barbara Shafer is the

contact person, and you can call 484-336-8995 for more information. The program is open to the public and free of charge.

April Program

Historian, Author, Guide: The One and Only Edwin C. Bearss-This is Ed's 6th Program.



Topic: Appomattox

Edwin C. Bearss is America's premier battlefield historian and the historian emeritus of the National Park Service. Since retiring in 1995, Ed has led historical tours approximately 275 days per year. Ed is the author of 13 books, including *Fields of Honor*. He has also served as a consultant on numerous documentaries and films, including Ken Burns' *The Civil War*. Ed now lives in Arlington, Virginia.

He is the recipient of the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Award, the highest award given by the department.

Mr. Bearss comes from a long line of Marines. His father was a Marine and a close relative of "Hike'em" Hiram Bearss who was a Marine General who won the Medal of Honor. Mr. Bearss served in the Pacific during WWII where he was severely wounded, hit 4 times while he was pinned down in a creek bed. He has three children. Two are former Marines and one is an historian.

Mr. Bearss has a new book, *Petersburg Campaign*.

Dinner Reservations for the Monday April 20, 2015 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for April include Tortellini with Vegetables in a Blush Sauce (Vegetarian), Roast Chicken with Sage and Sausage Stuffing, Tilapia

Florentine, and Beef Tips. Vegetable, soup, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to **Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995** no later than noon Thursday, April 16, 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.**

2014-2015 Program Schedule

May 12, 2015: Mark D. Grim, Jr.

Brig. Gen. John F. Hartranft



Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net

The Surrender at Appomattox by Herman Melville

As billows upon billows roll,
On victory victory breaks;
Ere yet seven days from Richmond's fall
And crowning triumph wakes
The loud joy-gun, whose thunders run
By sea shore, streams, and lakes.
The hope and great event agree
In the sword that Grant received from Lee.

The warring eagles fold the wing,
But not in Caesar's sway;
Not Rome o'ercome by Roman arms we sing,
As on Pharsalia's day,
But Treason thrown, though a giant grown,
And Freedom's larger play.
All human tribes glad token see
In the close of the wars of Grant and Lee.

Herman Melville (1819-1891). Author of *Moby-Dick*. Melville's poetry has gained growing recognition in recent years. All of his Civil War poems are from *Battle-Pieces and Aspects of the War*, published in 1866.
Linda Zeiber

Contact Information

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Trips	Ron Emge	Emge301@comcast.net
Programs	Dave Sweigert	Davesweig@aol.com
Adopt a Position/Trips	Don Stripling	donstripling54@msn.com
Programs/Web	Errol Steffy	esteffy1741@comcast.net

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

May 2015



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this month's message, the Civil War Sesquicentennial has officially come to an end with the commemoration of Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. Of course, we know that 150 years ago there were still a few Confederate armies in the field that would not give in for another month or two, and the final battle casualties are yet to occur. And, it will be another six months until the *C.S.S. Shenandoah* lowers the last Confederate flag when it makes port in England long after most of its comrades-in-arms have returned home.

In my previous two messages I discussed what comes next with regard to Civil War studies. Our good friend Ed Bearrs recounted in great detail the last days of the Confederacy as he spoke to us at our April meeting, and in May we will hear from Mark Grim about Pennsylvania's own General John Hartranft. In June, many of us will journey to New York City to take in a plethora of sites related to the Great Conflict, and we have already filled out the program schedule for our 19th Campaign that will begin in September. So, there is very definitely a "next" for the First Defenders.

Barb Shafer provided an anecdote about her six-year granddaughter's class learning about presidents (and, I suppose, the economy!) by checking out their portraits on paper currency and coins. They also shared presidential tidbits including Abraham Lincoln's habit of placing notes and speeches inside his stovepipe hat. Just when we fret that teaching of history may be on the wane, we find elementary school children are still learning about the leaders of our country, especially Mr. Lincoln.

With that in mind, I was particularly pleased to see a number of young folks attend Ed's program because it is there where I see our future. The books and historians are changing to embrace a younger demographic and evolving technologies to tell the stories of our ancestors who were

there for "the late unpleasantness," and it will be up to them to continue reaching the next generations. Ed once told me interest in the Civil War has been cyclic, and though the sesquicentennial celebrations are now over, we have no reason to believe a new cycle is not beginning as we look toward the 175th celebration and the bicentennial to follow. We're not done yet!

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The April 20, 2015, monthly First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting began at 6:25 p.m. with 73 members and guests gathered at the Inn at Reading in an air of excitement with our friend Ed Bearrs in the room. President Craig Breneiser called the meeting to order; Member Greg Stull offered a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Craig asked those in attendance to introduce our many guests and to welcome our 103rd new member, Dave Grauel. Bob Shuman spoke a few words about being back after his recent health issues had kept him away from meetings. Craig asked for prayers and good wishes for Gerry Zeiber who was facing surgery the day following our meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Lori Border reported that our balance as of March 10, 2015, stood at \$2,907.71 with \$339.00 ear-marked for preservation. An additional \$210.00 was collected for preservation at April's meeting as noted by Cate Kennedy. Receipts totaled \$3,065.00 with expenditures of \$2,222.37 leaving a balance of \$3,750.34. Money deposited for the June 2015 trip to NYC totals \$1,760.00.

Vice Presidents' Reports

Mark Quattrochio spoke about sending a donation to Antietam to help purchase 44 acres at a 5:1 leverage noting that this is the area where the 88th PA fought near the Dunker Church. Mark moved and Ed Ewing seconded the motion that we send \$250.00 to the Civil War Trust. Other preservation details are found in Mark's article later in this newsletter.

Tim Antosy mentioned that his ancestors fought in the 88th PA and that this initiative had great meaning for him.

Programs

Errol Steffy reminded us that he was stepping down as Programs' Chair after seven years and that we needed someone to step up to fill his position. He thanked everyone and spoke of what a great experience it had been, especially having had the honor of meeting so many great historians. He reported that next year's program schedule is complete. It begins with renowned Naval historian Craig Symons. Errol acknowledged that an anonymous donor had paid for the meals of our speakers and their guests this past campaign thus saving the round table much money.

The members of the Round Table, and especially the Board, are extremely grateful for Errol's years of service.

Preservation

Preservation Chair Cate Kennedy conducted the monthly book raffle with 7 books offered, one of which was authored by Ed Bearrs. The proceeds for the night were \$210.00. Many thanks to all who bought tickets. Remember, your dollars help purchase battlefield lands.

Introducing Ed

Before introducing Ed Bearss in preparation for the evening's program "The Road to Appomattox", Craig Breneiser read and presented a proclamation honoring Ed's lifetime work and achievements, signed by state Senator Judy Schwank. The proclamation had been enacted by the Pennsylvania State Senate On April 15, 2015.

We were delighted to learn that Ed was on the program schedule for April 2016. We are truly honored that he has become a part of the First Defenders' family

Preservation Corner

Hello Everyone:

As the 2014-2015 Campaign Season winds to a close I am pleased to report that we have had a very successful year with Preservation. At our April meeting we approved our last donation of the season of **\$250** to go to the **Civil War Trust** and their **\$5 to \$1** matching grant they have for Antietam. The Trust is looking to save 44 acres of the battlefield located in near the East & West Woods and the Miller Cornfield. This has local significance for us because this is a portion of the battlefield where the 88th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry had fought. The 88th PA had 3 companies from Reading & Berks County and during the battle their Brigade Commander, General Edward Christian, was giving orders that were very confusing and no one understood. All of the sudden, General Christian ran away off the field. With the \$250 donation and the \$5 to \$1 match this makes our total contribution **\$1250**.

During the Campaign Season the First Defenders Civil War Roundtable made the following donations:

1. **Harpers Ferry**-We donated **\$258** in the name of Dennis Frye to the **Civil War Trust**. The Trust had a matching grant of **\$20 to \$1**. Our total contribution with the match is **\$5160**.
2. **Central Virginia Battlefield Trust**-We donated **\$200** in the names of both Kris White and Phillip Greenwalt. The C.V.B.T. is a group which works to preserve the: **Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House battlefields**. There was no matching grants with this donation.
3. **Pamplin Park**-We donated **\$200** in the name of A. Wilson Greene. Pamplin Park is the site of the breakthrough of Lee's Fortifications at Petersburg by the 6th Corps on April 2nd, 1865. There is no matching grant with this donation.
4. **8 battlefields**-We donated **\$500** to the **Civil War Trust** to take part in the matching grant they had of **\$31.11 to \$1** for the following 8 battlefields:

Virginia

Rappahannock Station

White Oak Road

Reams Station

Second Manassas(Longstreet's Flank Attack)

Fredericksburg (area of the Slaughter Pen)

Tennessee

Thompson's Station(part of the Stones River Campaign)

Shiloh

North Carolina

Bentonville

*With our donation of \$500 our total contribution with the matching grant is **\$15,555.**

5. **Franklin**-We donated **\$100** to the **Civil War Trust** to help preserve a portion of the battlefield near the Carter House. The Trust had a matching grant of **\$14 to \$1** and with the grant our total contribution is **\$1400.**

6-**Antietam**

During the Campaign Season, the Roundtable has donated a total of **\$1508** and our total contribution with all of the matching grants comes out to **\$23,765.** In addition, you can see all of the battlefields we have touched and impacted with the money we donated.

Our success this year is in part to your support of preservation and purchasing tickets for the book raffle every month. Your donations are greatly appreciated. A very special thanks goes to Cathy Kennedy for manning the book raffle table and helping with selling tickets every meeting. Your dedication and hard work helped with making this happen and it is truly appreciated!

Until next time!

Mark

Trips--only 7 Seats Remain

Plans for the June 13, 2015, field trip to New York City are now complete. The New York City trip will be guided by Barnet Schecter. Barnet has spoken to the round table in the past and is an author and expert historian of New York City.

The flyer is now available on the website. This is going to be a great trip so send your flyer and payment in ASAP to be assured of a seat. Ron Emge reported that there

are only 17 seats remaining at this point. The reservation form and check for the cost of the trip should be sent to Don Stripling as explained on the "Trips" tab of the website.

Dave Fox to Make Presentation

Dave Fox will be presenting a program to the Leesport Area Historical Society, at Bethany Church, 308 Main Street, Leesport, on June 22, 2015, with the meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. He will be speaking on Union General David McMurtrie Gregg. Barbara Shafer is the contact person, and you can call 484-336-8995 for more information. The program is open to the public and free of charge.

May Program

Historian: Mark D. Grim Jr. of Biglerville, Pennsylvania, is a retired Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps, with over 25 years of service and also a retired Pennsylvania attorney. He is a graduate of Ursinus College, Widener University School of Law, U.S. Marine Corps Command & Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. He is descended from a Civil War veteran, his Great Uncle, Corporal Andrew J. Grim, who served in Company C, 51st P.V.I., from September 1861-May 1864 when he was wounded (second time) at Spotsylvania Courthouse. On June 6, 1864, he died as a result of those wounds.



Topic: Brevet Major General John F. Hartranft, USV"- **"Imprisonment, Trial and Execution of the Lincoln Conspirators"**

"By the end of April 1865, following the assassination of President Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth was dead and eight of the nine remaining alleged conspirators were captured and imprisoned by Federal authorities. Appointed by President Andrew Johnson as Special Provost Marshal, Governor of the Military Prison and Commander of Troops at the Washington Arsenal (Ft. McNair today), Washington, DC, Brevet Major General John F. Hartranft, USV, served as jailer of the eight conspirators imprisoned and tried there by military commission, and on July 7th, 1865, was responsible for the execution by hanging of four of the conspirators."

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday May 12, 2015 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for May include: Baked Stuffed Shells (Vegetarian), Chicken Piccatta, Grilled Salmon with lemon Pepper, and Roast Beef with Gravy. Starch, Vegetable, salad, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, lemonade, 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 8, 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.**

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



Do You Know?

1. According to U.S Army regulations, how many sets of colors were a standard regiment supposed to carry?
2. In which battle was the "gallant" Mayor John Pelham killed?
3. In the Confederate army, what was the lowest ranking infantry officer allowed to keep horses?
4. Who was the Commandant of the Confederate States Marine Corps?
5. Who was George B. McClellan's running mate in the 1864 election?

Contact Information

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Vice President	Mark Quattrock	mquattrock@yahoo.com
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Preservation	Cate C. Kennedy	Kenwycke1@aol.com
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Adopt a Position/Trips	Don Stripling	donstripling54@msn.com
Programs/Web	Errol Steffy	esteffy1741@comcast.net

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

June & July 2015



www.firstdefenderscwrts.us

First Defenders on Summer Break

The First Defenders ended meetings for the 18th campaign at the Inn at Reading on Tuesday, May 12, 2015. President Craig Breneiser called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. with 61 members present. Greg Stuff offered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officers were called on for comments:

Vice President Mark Quattro announced that the round table had spent \$1,500 for battlefield preservation which in reality became \$23,000 due to large leverages for certain donations. He thanked Cate Kennedy for conducting the monthly book raffles which generated our gifts for battlefield preservation.

Mark also announced that the filming of *Mercy Street*, a mini-series about two women involved in Civil War medicine, had begun filming in Alexandria, VA. Mark will keep us posted when the production is going to air.

Vice President Tim Antosy mentioned a Civil War course that he had taken at RACC recently and urged members to be aware of local offerings of value. He discussed an article in the *Civil War Courier* about the re-creation of the Grand Review in Washington, DC, which will include Colored Troops this time. They had not been permitted in the review in 1865.

Lori Border reported that our balance as of March 25, 2015, stood at \$3,750.34 with \$299.00 ear-marked for preservation. Receipts totaled \$3,425.00 with expenditures of \$2,509.05 leaving a balance of \$4,666.29 on April 20, 2015. Money deposited for the June 2015 trip to NYC totals \$3,0000.00.

Don Stripling announced that seven seats remain for the NYC trip on June 13, 2015. Contact Don as soon as possible. Details for the trip remain available on the round table website.

Dave Sweigert announced that membership is currently at 103 and several have shown interest in joining in September. Any person interested in joining should contact Dave at Davesweig@aol.com.

Linda Zeiber announced that the next 'official' newsletter would be issued in August 2015 in preparation for the September meeting beginning our 19th campaign.

Election of Officers: President Breneiser opened the meeting to nominations for president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. No nominations were offered in addition to current officers who had agreed to continue serving in their positions. A motion was made to close the nominations by Gerry Zeiber. Ed Ewing seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote elected the officers for next year.

Ed's Artifacts

Ed brought a group of artifacts that were all from the Union except for a Confederate saber belt. Of particular interest was a Colt revolver from the 116th PA Regiment that had been part of the Irish Brigade. It belonged to a color bearer. Ed explained that color bearers were not allowed to draw their side arms unless the colors were in imminent danger. The round table thanked Ed for his diligence in displaying and describing his countless collection of artifacts each month.

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



Do You Know?

1. According to U.S Army regulations, how many sets of colors were a standard regiment supposed to carry? **Answer: 2**
2. In which battle was the "gallant" Mayor John Pelham killed? **Answer: Kelly's Ford**
3. In the Confederate army, what was the lowest ranking infantry officer allowed to keep horses? **Answer: Major**
4. Who was the Commandant of the Confederate States Marine Corps? **Answer: Lloyd Beall**
5. Who was George B. McClellan's running mate in the 1864 election? **Answer: George H. Pendleton**

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