

Sept 2002 - May 2003

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 2002

Round Table Business

On April 15, 1997 The First Defenders Civil War Round Table held its first meeting at the Moselem Springs Inn. This September 10, 2002 marks the opening of the 6th. season of our organization. In a way an anniversary and the opportunity to think and reflect on the past five years. We have developed a positive reputation in battlefield preservation, maintained a membership of 100 plus in each of our years. We have enjoyed presentations and programs by noted historians and most of all have enjoyed the friendship and fellowship of many people who hold the years of the American Civil War, and its effect on the history of our great nation, in the highest regard. Our efforts to help preserve our national landmarks and battlefields, our interest in the books and battlefields and our Round Table discussions of this great conflict are activities that represent the very purpose of the Round Table.

With this review let us move to the business of a new and exciting campaign. Our June field trip was a huge success. We had a full bus and a great trip to the Shenandoah Valley visiting the Kernstown and Cedar Creek battlefields. A review of this trip follows later in the newsletter.

A new slate of officers defines our Board of Directors for the coming year. President, Dave Valuska; Vice President, Ron Rhein; Treasure, Arlan Christ; Membership Secretary, Pat Christ; Solicitor, Bob Grim; Preservation Chair, Tom Tate; Recording Secretary, Rich Kennedy; Member At Large, Dave Fox; Member Emeritus, Mike Gabriel; Newsletter Editor, Tony Reilly.

A tentative schedule of programs for the coming year provides this line up:

September	Dale Gallon---Painting the Civil War
October	Round Table Discussion---Gettysburg Topic
November	Tom Vossler---Friends of Gettysburg
December	Christmas Program---2 nd . South Carolina
January	Roy Gehris---1 st . Penna. Cavalry at Gettysburg
February	Andy Waskie---An evening with George G. Meade
March	Hans Heinzel---Gettysburg the Commanders
April	Troy Harmon
May	Carole Reardon---Pickett's Charge

All programs are firm except for November, stay tuned for more information as program dates approach.

Our last Treasure's report showed a balance of \$3,373.96 and a preservation balance of \$1,174.00. Our September report will update this information

Our final business item is a request from Mike Gabriel. Mike ask that I place these comments of his in the newsletter. "I'd like to thank all the members of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table for the thoughtful gift of the Dale Gallon print, "The Musician." I have it hanging in my office as a constant reminder of the many good

friends that I've made over the past five years through the Round Table. It's been my pleasure to serve as vice president and program director, and I look forward to seeing you at the meetings. Thank you so much again."

I know we are all very appreciative of Mike's efforts on behalf of the Round Table these past five years and we will very much look forward to seeing him at our future meetings.

One more "last item" regarding Mike. Mr. Gabriel has had a book published, titled *Major General Richard Montgomery: The Making of an American Hero* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press). Montgomery, a fifteen-year veteran of the British officer corps, commanded the ill-fated American invasion of Canada during the first year of the Revolutionary War and was killed at Quebec. His image lived on, however, and he became a major hero symbol for the next fifty years. Mike's book is available, hopefully, at local stores such as Borders. It is also available at the Kutztown University bookstore, Amazon.com. I'm sure he would appreciate all purchases of his book.

Book Raffle / Preservation

Tom Tate reports, we will start our 2002-2003 season pretty well supplied to conduct our raffle. We have plenty of tickets even at the rate you buy them and a well stocked book supply. One book in particular may be of interest to many of our readers, *Raising the Hunley*. It will be on the table at our September meeting. We also have available several reprints from the old Scribner's Series. They are in good hard covers and of a handy reading size. Lets continue to buy tickets and have everybody become a winner.

Our good friends at Kernstown reported that they will be receiving a National Parks Service Grant in the amount of \$420,000.00. This is great news and it will greatly reduce their debt on the principal and interest paid by them. The Richmond Battlefield Association acknowledged our gift of \$500.00 to them in their newsletter. We also presented checks of \$500.00 each to Kernstown and Cedar Creek at their Information Centers during our June field trip. Tom makes a request for us to continue to do good work and make 2002-2003 another good year.

As you all may know from newspaper articles, the revolving cannon turret belonging to the USS Monitor has been successfully raised from some 230 feet of water 16 miles off the coast of North Carolina. The Monitor sank on New Years Eve, 1862. 16 sailors died when the vessel sank. The turret will be taken to a museum in Newport News, Virginia, to be preserved and displayed along with other Monitor artifacts.

Field Trip Review

June 15 dawned, no not bright and clear, but dark and dreary. If you add a steady rain and the fact the bus was about a half hour late it can be stated here we weren't off to a good start. Once under way our spirits lifted but the rain continued to fall. However, fortune smiled on us as we neared our battlefield destination and we enjoyed sun and a cool breeze throughout the day.

Our first stop was the Kernstown visitors Center, here we met our battlefield guide, Gary Crawford, provided by the Kernstown Battlefield Association. Since the visitor center is located near the base of a key battlefield site, Pritchard's Hill, Gary provided information regarding the action that took place at this site. We walked to the top of the hill and this gave us a view and understanding of what both sides experienced during the Confederate attempts to take the hill. We then moved to Sandy Ridge a site presently on private property. Our final stop on our Kernstown visit was the stone wall, the location of

the major infantry action in this battle. In addition to the sites we visited Gary pointed out other locations important to the battle, Opequon Church, Barton's Woods and Hoge Run. As we are aware Kernstown was a Confederate defeat in this battle in 1862. It was the only defeat "Stonewall" Jackson experienced in his Valley Campaign. It was of interest to me to hear our guide state he was a big fan of Jackson, but it was his opinion that he fought this battle poorly. True, Jackson was imperfect in this fight, but he succeeded in putting pressure on the federals and thus forced them to keep a sizable force in the Valley and prevent them from joining McClellan in his Peninsula Campaign. A tactical defeat yes, but probably a strategic victory.

Leaving our guide we headed south on the Valley Turnpike, US 11, and arrived at the Cedar Creek visitor center. Our arrival here was later than we expected, due to our late start in the morning. Because of that our tour of the Cedar Creek battlefield sites was a riding tour, we made no walking stops on this tour, other than the visitor center. Our guide for Cedar Creek was Dana Heim. While Dana was part of our tour he brought with him and introduced Bill Kelble who provided us with the narrative during our tour. Dana advised us that Bill was the knowledge expert on the Battle of Cedar Creek. We were not disappointed. We started with the Confederate surprise attack, the ford crossings, then the areas of their success in enveloping the Union 8th and 19th Corps. Perhaps the high point of this tour was the visit to the Middletown Cemetery where Mr. Kelble described the important stand by units of the 6th Corps that probably, and according to Mr. Kelble, the action that prevented a Confederate route of Union forces on October 19, 1864. This stand by the 6th Corps held for two hours enabling some reorganizing by Federal units and eventually a new line of defense. Bill concluded his presentation by reviewing the Federal counter-attack organized and led by General Sheridan when he arrived on the battlefield following his return from Washington the previous day.

We had one other notable visit during this tour when we visited Belle Grove, a beautiful old building, in a beautiful location. Belle Grove was located in the center of the Federal lines and was headquarters for General Sheridan. Belle Grove is also located a very short distance from the Cedar Creek Visitor Center on the Valley Pike.

We concluded our tours and visit to the Shenandoah Valley with a fine dinner at historic Wayside Inn. This was a fine trip and the 40 members who made the trip returned home happy and well satisfied. Thanks to all who worked on making the trip successful, enjoyable and worthwhile.

May Program Review

Our program for our May meeting took us to the western theater as Ron Rhein and Mike Gabriel presented "The Emergence of Grant." Ron and Mike addressed three primary issues in their talk. The situation in Missouri, April to October 1861, Grant in command, Belmont and Fort Henry, November 1861 to February 1862 and the battle for Fort Donelson, February 12 to 16, 1862.

Missouri was a state with a large white population, along with Kentucky it was a slave state and like Kentucky a crucial border state. Fighting in the west would hinge on control of the rivers and control of the rivers hinged on winning control of these two border states. In April 1861 when Lincoln called for his volunteers Missouri Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson, a secessionist, stated the requisition was illegal and cannot be complied with. At a state wide convention called by the Governor the majority were Unionist and the state voted not to secede. Jackson's attempt to get Missouri out of the

Union was frustrated. Jackson's chief antagonist in the struggle for Missouri was Frank P. Blair Jr. a Republican congressman from St. Louis. Blair was aided in his efforts by regular army Captain Nathaniel Lyon. These men developed a type of citizen army known as the Home Guards numbering some 7,000 men. For the secessionist cause Brigadier General Sterling Price was in command of their Missouri troops. Lyon and Price fought and maneuvered throughout the summer. At Wilson's Creek the Confederates claimed victory in a nasty fight on August 10, 1861. While Lyon's had lost a battle, and his life in this fight, he had kept the Confederates off balance and left the Unionist in the state free to strengthen their control of the state government by appointing a loyal governor and other state officials. With the state government in Union hands they controlled the centers of population and industry. Missouri remained in the Union, but was a troubled state throughout the war.

Ron and Mike then took us to Galena, Illinois and the beginning of the emergence of Grant. Grant was working as a clerk in a family leather-goods store, not a happy man, when war came. Grant assisted the citizens of Galena in organizing a company of soldiers, but did not enlist. As a former army officer he wanted an appointment with a high rank. Frustrated at first in his attempts to gain rank, Governor Richard Yates came to his rescue with a commission to command the 21st Illinois Regiment. From this dubious start, Grant began a steady climb. Grant had a problem with fear. He had command courage, but was concerned with the moral courage to fight. When he realized his enemy was as afraid of him as he was of them he was then able to face his fears and go forward. Appointed to Brigadier General with brigade command he headquartered at Cairo, Illinois at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. Grant was ordered to demonstrate against the Confederate forces near Columbus, Kentucky, he chose to attack Belmont, Missouri across the Mississippi from Columbus. The battle went back and forth until Confederate reinforcements and artillery stopped what appeared to be a Federal victory. Finding themselves cutoff from their boats in the river, Grant led his men out as they fought their way back to the river and the safety of the boats. The Confederates counted Belmont a victory, it was however a pointless battle fought for worthless ground at a cost of some 1400 casualties combined. Neither side had won or lost. Grant returned to Cairo his army now close to 20,000 men. He requests permission from General Halleck, commander of the Department of Missouri, to attack Fort Henry. Halleck does not like Grant and gives him no response. However, when Flag Officer Andrew Foote supports Grant, Halleck says okay. On February 2, 1862 Grant's army and Foote's gunboats start for Fort Henry on the Tennessee River. On February 6 Grant lands his forces on both sides of the river, but his army does not play a major role in this battle. The poor location of Fort Henry, on low ground frequently flooded, leads to a successful naval attack on the fort led by Foote's warships. Following a two hour fight Brigadier General Lloyd Tilghman in command at Fort Henry surrenders the fort to Flag Officer Foote.

The capture of Fort Henry, though a victory, exposed and isolated Grant at this site. To hold his prize he next had to take Fort Donelson. While Foote moved his vessels north on the Tennessee, then south on the Cumberland Rivers, Grant on February 11, 1862 marched across the twelve miles to Fort Donelson. Unlike Fort Henry, Fort Donelson would be a lot tougher battle. The gunboats so successful at Fort Henry were well handled by Donelson's guns. On February 15 a strong infantry battle took place, while

the Confederates did well they became fearful of being trapped. When their attempt at a breakout fails, Grant orders a counter-attack to further halt the breakout. The Confederate officers, Generals Floyd, Pillow and Buckner meet and decide to surrender on the 16th of February. Grant's terms "unconditional surrender." In disarray the Confederate commanders Floyd and Pillow turnover command to Buckner. As Buckner communicates with Grant on the surrender, Floyd and Pillow make plans to leave. Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest takes his cavalry and leaves vowing to get out even if only one man makes it. General Buckner surrenders Fort Donelson on February 16th unhappy with Grant's terms.

The defeats at Forts Henry and Donelson are a catastrophe for the South. Kentucky will stay in the Union and Tennessee is opened to a Northern advance along the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. These victories are also the early turning points of the war in the western theater, opening the way to the eventual splitting of the Confederacy. For Grant it can now be said he is no longer emerging, he has arrived.

This program by Ron and Mike was an exceptional in-depth presentation on important issues early in the war in the western theater, and an introduction to Grant's emergence. We must extend our most sincere thanks to both of these gentlemen for their work and for continuing to keep us all aware that a major war also existed in the west that carried great importance to the outcome of The American Civil War.

Again gentleman thank you.

Did You Know

Before the Civil War an officer posted to an assignment as quartermaster was considered the lowest posting a West Point graduate could receive, while engineering was the most prestigious. The Civil War changed this as logistics became more vital than ever. Since an army stops functioning effectively when its needs are not met the importance of supplies became a priority.

The following example shows the enormity of the supply problem. On May 4, 1864 when the Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan River to begin the Overland Campaign, without counting the 9th Corps which was independent, it had almost 100,000 men and 50,000 animals. The duty of the Quartermaster was to move supplies from a supply base to the army as it advanced. The Army of the Potomac supply train had 3,476 wagons, 591 ambulances, 4,176 horses, 20,184 mules and was 32 miles long if placed in a single line. If we think of the difficulty of moving this size supply train over the roads, rails and rivers of 1864 to transport the food, fodder, clothing, shoes, equipment, ammunition and medical supplies of this army the task was enormous.

While faced with many difficulties the armies of the Civil War did a very good job when compared to all previous US war experience. General Montgomery C. Meigs was Quartermaster General of the Union Army throughout the Civil War. He outfitted the Union forces and kept supplies flowing throughout the war even while mourning the death of his son, killed by Confederate guerillas in October, 1864 in the Shenandoah Valley.

There was another major problem faced by Quartermasters beyond the issue of supplies, it was the never ending concern of corruption. This was especially prevalent in the Confederate Army whose Quartermaster General Julius Norton showed little skill and poor leadership in developing an efficient supply system for their army, but took good care of himself at the expense of that army.

Because most of the war was fought in Confederate territory the quartermaster problems of the North were much more difficult. In a future "Did You Know" we will take a closer look at the issue of strategic supply in the Civil War.

One last point, when we give thought to a supply train of 32 miles long if placed in a single line. If we start at the Rapidan crossings of the Army of the Potomac and move directly toward Richmond, the first wagon would be beyond half way to Richmond as the last wagon was crossing the Rapidan. If only I 95 was available, it would have made it so much easier, and the Union might have beaten Lee to Richmond, I think!!!

September Quiz

- Q.1** Here is a two part question regarding the Confederate flag, the original Stars and Bars.
- A) Name the location where this flag was first raised?
 - B) Name the location where the flag was last lowered?
- Q.2** This Confederate officer was plagued with arthritis, he was unkempt, feisty, abrasive and sacrilegious. He voted for his state to remain in the Union. He was an able commander, but impetuous in battle. He left the country following the war, returned in 1869 to a law practice. He remained a defiant unreconstructed confederate and became the first president of The Southern Historical Society. Can you name this officer?
- Q.3** General Lee made this statement about a member of his staff early in the war. "I do not say he is not competent, but from what I have seen of him I do not know what he is." This may have been the best thing ever said of this officer, can you name him?

September Meeting

Our meeting for this month will be on September 10, 2002. We will meet at the Inn at Moselem Springs, meeting time is **6:30 PM**. Members planning to attend the meeting should make reservations and meal selections by, **Wednesday September 4th**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533**. Please make your reservations by the cutoff date and speak clearly when leaving a message. Dinner selections for this meeting include **Ham Steak, Baked Ziti and Grilled Salmon**. Our meal price continues to be \$15.00. If you make a reservation and cannot attend please plan to pay for your meal to save the Round Table the expense.

Last September our opening program was to be a presentation by noted artist Dale Gallon, sadly the events of September 11, 2001 interrupted that scheduled program and the lives of all of us and all our fellow citizens. Mr. Gallon is again our scheduled speaker for this September, his topic Civil War Art-Painting the Civil War. Mr. Gallon possesses a combination of artistic talent and dedication in painting the historic record of the Civil War. He is well known for his commitment to accuracy in depicting the scenes of the Civil War. He has demonstrated a great effort in painting the action that took place on the hallowed fields of Gettysburg. This presentation should be an outstanding start to our 6th season. To all members, plan to attend and help the Round Table kickoff a promising, interesting and enjoyable new year.

WELCOME BACK FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

OCTOBER 2002

Round Table Business

The First Defenders welcomed 70 members to our September 10th meeting, the first meeting of our 6th campaign, at The Inn at Moselem Springs. President Dave Valuska opened the meeting with a Pledge of Allegiance, our monthly meeting prayer and then requested, of the membership, a moment of quite thought for the victims of our nations September 11, 2001 national tragedy.

Dave then kicked off our business meeting with a review of our programs for the coming year. Dave indicated the Round Table would be putting emphasis on the Gettysburg campaign with most of this year's activities. In addition to our programs, next year's field trip will most likely be to the Gettysburg battlefield.

Our October meeting will be our annual Round Table discussion, Dave put forth a recommendation for our topic of discussion and placed it before the membership for approval. Our October program would allow for review the issue of "Gettysburg or Vicksburg--- which battle was most important to the outcome of the Civil War." He stated that many would argue that Antietam was most important, but for our review we would center our views on Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Receiving approval for this topic, our president urged all of us to start studying for the October meeting. This is a great subject and should enlist a lively debate, the members opinions should be very interesting.

Dave's final comments on programs was to note that Troy Harmon, our speaker for April, 2003, will present comments on Pickett's charge addressing new insights on this attack. This information, and the speaker schedule we presented in the September newsletter, sets our path for our 6th campaign or perhaps we could say for our Round Table's Gettysburg campaign. It should be a great year with this fine program schedule.

Arlan Christ gave the following Treasure's report. Previous balance \$3,373.96, new income \$3,674.00, new expenses \$4,568.18 giving us a balance of \$2,479.78. Our preservation fund balance was \$0, time to start moving again on preservation money. Arlan noted we had a \$395.12 profit from our June field trip, it was recommended we transfer this money to our preservation fund and the membership voted to approve the transfer. That was what we could say was getting moving again.

Jack Gurney brought two fine portraits for our review. One of U.S. Grant, an oil painting in 1864 by E.C. Middleton of Cincinnati, Ohio and a lithograph of President Lincoln signed by the President. This work came from Middleton and Strobridge & Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio. Tom Tate added a new 1863 Sharps Carbine caliber .52 for our interest and review.

Mike Gabriel gave a brief review of his recently published book, *Major General Richard Montgomery: The Making of an American Hero*. The book is available through local bookstores.

Pat and Arlan Christ have opened a new shop in Kutztown featuring antique Civil War items.

The Round Table regrets the passing of two of our members this summer, Ted Clarkson and Peggy Reichardt. We extend our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.

Membership Renewal

Attached to the newsletter is a form to be completed for membership renewal for the coming year. Membership dues remains the same for the coming year \$15.00. Payment is due by October 15, 2002. Please submit your payment as directed by the renewal form. Pat Christ, our membership chairwomen directs your attention to the notice on the form for those who have already paid their 2002-2003 dues.

Book Raffle / Preservation

Tom Tate reports we entered the 2002-2003 season with our funds for preservation depleted. That perhaps is how it should be. But the members voted to transfer the profit we made on the summer field trip into preservation. Then you bought 151 tickets for the September raffle, the number is among the highest number of tickets we have sold. Bruce Englehart's luck didn't abandon him over the summer, he won two books in the raffle but being the gentleman he is he returned one of his prizes. You will have an opportunity to win *Raising the Hunley* again next month.

Tom has requested I present his words of tribute to the membership regarding the passing of Peggy Reichardt. "It was with great sorrow that I received from Paul Foust last meeting night that Peggy Reichardt died this summer. In Paul's kind way he told me how much Peggy enjoyed the field trip to the Shenandoah Valley. Among a membership noteworthy for its support of our preservation fund activity, Peggy stood out. She and Paul were frequent donors of books to be raffled, thereby keeping our costs down. She was always particularly friendly and helpful to Marilyn and me. We will all miss her and I am glad to have had a chance to work with her in these projects we all so stoutly support."

September Program Review

Our opening program for the year was a presentation by noted Civil War artist Dale Gallon, his topic Civil War Art- Painting the Civil War. Mr. Gallon opened his remarks by stating he was not a historian. If a civil war historian is one who writes the history of this great conflict, Mr. Gallon's contribution is a visual history of our nation's great trial. In this respect we can easily consider him a historian, especially his work on the events of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Mr. Gallon indicated mistakes can be a factor in paintings, in order to prevent them, detail study of the scene to be painted is important. He spoke a good deal of the importance of flags in a civil war painting, what they identify, how they are positioned in painting the scene and how they are carried. Other details such as caps, uniforms, swords and belts, weapons, field positions, horses and most important people all require detailed study in order to present a final picture with historical accuracy. Because his work presents a history lesson in paint, no small detail or factor regarding the scene to be painted can be over looked. Great preparation is an absolute before painting the scene of any military art.

Mr. Gallon's ideas for a scene come from his readings of the subject and the interest he sees in that subject. He begins with a sketch, decides on the size of the painting, most

approximately 16 inches high and 26 inches wide. The average time to finalize a work is four months, this includes the idea, sketch, history and painting. If the historical factors in a scene to be painted are more detailed the time period can be longer than four months. Dale acknowledged he is ably assisted with the historical work by Mr. Wayne Motts, a military historian, who he gave great credit to for his contributions in making the accuracy of his paintings so near perfect. Mr. Motts also provides a comprehensive historical essay which accompanies each of the prints when completed.

Mr. Gallon stated his office is the battlefield and that is all the inspiration he needs for his work. It can easily be stated that his many works can provide an inspiration for all of us who view and study the American Civil War as perhaps our nation's greatest historical experience. The First Defenders Civil War Round Table has been very fortunate to open our 6th year with the presentation by Mr. Gallon. It should set the stage for the coming year which hopefully will be our best to date.

Our \$100.00 presentation to Mr. Gallon will be sent to the Gettysburg National Park at his request.

Did You Know

Throughout the Civil War, a soldier had little opportunity to spend extended periods of time away from the army. Furloughs were seldom granted. Federal troops were often too far from home to get much use from a furlough, and in the South, their troops were too few and always needed to be permitted leaves. Forced to remain in or near camp, soldiers filled their leisure hours with different pastimes. While much of these pastimes were benign other traits were more seamy and troublesome. Hard language and boredom led to quarrels and fights, brawling became a prevalent pastime. Drunkenness and gambling led to other difficulties, any of which each of us could identify. What might have been the favorite vice for a soldier was often politely called "horizontal refreshments." Yes, it is exactly what you think it is and it to was fairly prevalent. But with this came some severe problems, venereal disease.

Venereal disease has long been, and was in the Civil War, a major cause of non-battle related casualties in armies. This disease was not only prevalent but largely uncontrolled. About 8 percent of the soldiers in the Union Army were treated during the war. In these allegedly restrained Victorian times the Union Army seems to have had 82 cases per thousand men per year. Officially 182,779 cases and 136 deaths were reported among white troops alone during the war. These figures exclude black troops, as well as the Navy and Marine Corps. However, if these Union forces were added the 82 per thousand figure would not change by much. The magnitude of the Union problem also led to 1,779 white soldiers and 86 black soldiers discharged during the war due to advance syphilis. Figures for Confederate forces are at best fragmentary, but suggest a rate of about 89 cases per thousand men per year, slightly higher than the reported Union rate.

Prostitutes were the principal vectors for spreading "VD" during the war. The raising of the Union and Confederate armies "was paralleled by informal mobilization to active service of a vast horde of loose women." By 1862 Washington had 450 "sporting houses," some named Haystack, Hooker's Headquarters, The Ironclad and Madam Russell's Bake Oven. These locations and others were home to a reported 7,500 prostitutes. Chicago held more than 2,000 prostitutes, and New York and Boston were very well populated. For the Confederates, Richmond and New Orleans had impressive numbers of working women. In Richmond women worked soliciting on the Capitol

grounds and across the street from a military hospital causing a problem with recovering casualties. It seems their recovery was taking longer than expected. Women also followed the armies, doing business from tents, huts or any appropriate location available to them. Despite the known hazards, there was no cure for syphilis or gonorrhea at the time, these ladies seem to have been well patronized.

For the Civil War soldier, both North and South, free time then was many things and possibilities. "Horizontal refreshments" was one of those possibilities. Right or wrong, good or bad it was then, probably is to this day and will continue to be with the armies of the world into the future.

October Quiz

Q.1 This Federal officer was a Major General who had climbed high by July, 1863. He played an important role at Gettysburg and other major battles. He graduated in 1850 from Bowdoin College, then went to West Point and graduated in 1854. He was a close friend of J.E.B. Stuart, taught mathematics at West Point and considered becoming an Episcopal priest before the war. Can you name him?

Q.2 Brigadier General Lysander Cutler's Second Brigade of General James Wadsworth Division signaled the debut of the Union infantry into the conflict at Gettysburg. This brigade was made of the 76th, 84th, 95th, 147th New York, the 7th Indiana and the 56th Pennsylvania Regiments. The 84th New York was commonly called by another identity. Can you name the other designation?

Q.3 During July 1, 1863 at Gettysburg, the McPherson farm was the scene of heavy fighting. Owner of the farm Edward M. McPherson was Chief Clerk in the U.S. House of Representatives, he did not live on the farm. Name the family who leased the property, lived and farmed the land at the time of the battle?

October Meeting

October 8 will be the date of our next meeting. Meeting time is **6:30 PM**. We will meet at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Please make your dinner reservations and meal selections by, **Wednesday October 2nd**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533**. Please make all reservations by the cutoff date and speak clearly when leaving a message. Dinner selections for this meeting include **Quakertown Roast, Baked Manicotti and Baked Haddock**. Our meal price is \$15.00. If you make a reservation and cannot attend please pay for your meal to save the Round Table the expense.

Two final reminders, our October program success is up to all of us, do a little homework, come prepared to add your comments and views to the discussion. We can all learn from the views of any one of our members. It will also lead to a lively discussion. Remember our attachment regarding membership renewal. We have a waiting list of interested parties, please act quickly on your reenlistment, this will allow the Round Table to offer membership to those waiting with any openings we may have after October 15, 2002. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

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NOVEMBER 2002

Round Table Business

I would like to begin this newsletter by stating that I personally felt that our October meeting this year was one of the best meetings we have had since our beginning six years ago. I hope that many, or all, of the 55 members present would agree. I make this comment because I was greatly impressed by the conduct of the meeting and the excellent participation during our program. We will address more about our program in our program review.

We had a short business meeting led by our president, Dave Valuska. Dave brought our attention to a major preservation issue regarding the Chancellorsville Battlefield. The Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors will make a final decision about rezoning of the 790-acre Mullins Farm. This vote will be made sometime early this fall. The area to be developed, by Dogwood Development, Inc., is located along the Orange Turnpike, west of Fredericksburg and north of the turnpike. This area was the scene of a great deal of fighting on May 1, 1863, both Federal and Confederate troops occupied and were engaged in this area. Signing petitions, personal letters and e-mail in opposition to this rezoning would help to preserve the battlefield area by convincing the County Board of overwhelming opposition to this development. The following special web page can be contacted for information on actions that can be taken to save the battlefield.

[http:// www.civilwar.org/preservation/chancellorsville/index.htm](http://www.civilwar.org/preservation/chancellorsville/index.htm)

We received our treasure's report from Arlan Christ. Previous balance \$2,479.78, new income \$2,131.00, new expenses \$1, 169.07 bringing our present balance to \$3,441.71. Our preservation fund is presently \$546.00, this will change when we review our book raffle figures.

Jack Gurney provided our monthly meeting with "Souvenirs of Gettysburg", a 1907 copy of an original National Art Co. of Boston painting of the Battle of Gettysburg, painted by James Walker. A steel bank celebrating the 100th anniversary of the battle, a number of photo books, very small, of battlefield areas and a cast iron drummer boy, small but quite heavy. A key item was a picture of the three children of Union Sergeant Amos Humiston, Franklin, Frederick and Alice, "children of the battlefield." This picture of the children, held by their father killed on the first day at Gettysburg, generated great interest in the plight of orphans of Federal soldiers and led to a movement to establish a home for orphans at Gettysburg in 1866. Mrs. Humiston was the first matron of the home. Jack continues to come through with items of great interest for the Round Table and we continue to extend our thanks to Mr. Gurney.

Arlan Christ provided an artist proof copy of "Pickett's Charge" by P.F.Rothermal, engraved by leading engraver of the time John Sartain. The Pennsylvania Legislature commissioned this print of the Gettysburg action in 1872. Additional information regarding the work can be obtained by speaking with Mr. Christ. We also extend our thanks to Arlan for providing this proof for our review.

Membership Renewal

Membership chairwomen Pat Christ reported 86 renewals to date of our October meeting. She requested October 15 remain as our due date for renewals. Hopefully she will hear from others by that date. We still have a waiting list and many of those interested may have the opportunity for membership by our November meeting.

Book Raffle/Preservation

Tom Tate provides this report. The members bought another 131 tickets at our October meeting. There were expenses for books of \$15.00, this allowed \$116.00 to be added to our growing preservation fund. This increases our preservation fund to \$662.00. We received a number of books donated by Ira Boyer, Bob Mulligan and Paul Foust. Paul donated *Jeb Stuart Speaks* and *Hard Road to Gettysburg* in memory of Peggy Reichardt. I am sure every one of our members would be happy to win a book donated to her memory. Thanks to all who help to make our preservation effort the great success it is and has been all along.

Battlefield preservation continues to be a sweet/sour affair. We have reviewed the Chancellorsville issue, both CWPT and our old friends at Central Virginia are working to prevent this intrusion. Your help to either one would be preservation money well donated. Our members may want to consider making a donation and could bring this item up at our next meeting.

The newly formed Richmond Battlefields Association is on the verge of making their first purchase. It will be some ten acres around Fort Harrison, which Bobby Krick tells me was the largest of a ring of forts guarding Richmond. It is eight miles south of the city and was assaulted in September 1864 by Ben Butler's Army of the James. Butler's army, which included the 58th and 188th Pennsylvania Regiments, took heavy casualties in this attack. This purchase will be an event that will give authority to this new and much needed preservation association. Congratulations to them and to us for our foresight to help them early with the funds they needed to get organized and underway.

October Program Review

I am sure we all would agree that the highlight of all of our Round Table meetings is our program. We have been gifted over these past few years with a number of excellent presentations. While we had no visiting historian to present our October program, we might say we had a room full of local Civil War historians who ably participated in our annual Round Table discussion. Starting with a topic, "Gettysburg or Vicksburg-which battle was most important to the outcome of the Civil War", that seemed of great interest to all, we had the good fortune to have many insightful comments from many participants regarding our subject.

Dave Valuska and Mike Gabriel gave opening views, and probably their opinions, which set the stage for a full discussion on our subject by the attending members. As Dave's comments on Gettysburg and Mike's on Vicksburg triggered the program fortunately they did not have to carry the evening discussion on their own we the members, local historians, pitched in very nicely. Space and my limited memory do not permit me to do justice to every comment made by writing them word for word. However, we can list some views, opinions and factors regarding these two momentous battles and their effects on the war.

The time period of May thru July 1863 was probably the most decisive period of the war covering a short time frame. There was no disagreement that both battles were

greatly significant in determining the outcome of the war. While many factors are involved in battles of great importance, I felt four issues seemed to be a part of the comments presented. The political, people's morale, slavery and the concerns of foreign nations, especially Great Britain were reasonably consistent throughout the discussion. Battles tend to be proportionate to the political objectives involved. Any, perhaps every, military operation should be directed toward a defined and attainable objective.

Vicksburg was to open the Mississippi from St. Louis to New Orleans, thus splitting the confederacy, opening mid-west trade to the outside world and freeing Union forces to move to East Tennessee and other objectives. Gettysburg, though a chance location for a battle, not being a specific objective such as Vicksburg became a battleground of power. General Lee hoped to defeat and destroy the Army of the Potomac thus changing the balance of power in the east in favor of the Confederacy. As viewed by our members he did not seek to gain and occupy large areas of Union territory. We could argue that national existence, Union that is, was not at stake in these battles but political power on both sides was going to be effected. Fighting at Gettysburg took the war out of Virginia and gave the Confederate forces great supply opportunities from northern soil. We should state here that a certain political objective of both sides and their respective armies was the protection of their capitals, Richmond and Washington. Taking the war out of Virginia helped meet one of the Confederate objectives of protecting their capital and their invasion of the North added considerable pressure for the Union to succeed in order to protect Washington, one of the Union's prime objectives. When political goals are won or lost in a battle the fallout has lasting effect on the morale of the populations of both sides. Vicksburg and Gettysburg being Northern victories had to be destructive to Southern morale throughout the Confederacy. Member's comments did not seem to place the issue of slavery as a determining factor affecting the outcome of the battles. Slavery however would be hard to erase from any issue of the Civil War and would have to be considered a political factor both in the North and South.

One factor that raised a number of comments was that of foreign affairs, especially with the English. Probably favoring the Confederacy the outcome of these two battles could sway the entrance of the English into the conflict, but only if the South were successful in gaining victory. A Confederate win at Gettysburg, then placing the Federal capital in jeopardy, may well have had a great impact on the English decision to enter on the side of the Confederacy. Here again the political objectives of both sides and the English government would play an important part in the future of the war. Some members felt the foreign need for cotton would be an influencing factor for foreign intervention this did not seem to carry much weight with other members. Comments as to whether England would want to get involved in a war in this country were also addressed. Northern victories probably had an influence on the decisions of foreign countries to remain out of the war.

Having looked briefly at the issues reviewed we can also indicate other factors such as casualties to both sides and territory occupied had to be considered in which battle was most important. I venture the opinion that from all the comments presented Gettysburg carried the decision as most important. A Union defeat at Gettysburg would have been monumental the political and morale factors of a loss in this battle would have been greater than a loss at Vicksburg. Foreign intervention may well have been more realistic. Understand, I expressed an opinion as to what I heard and personally believe, but it is just

that an opinion. My opinion in no way deludes the comments and viable opinions of anyone favoring Vicksburg as the most important battle. This topic could be argued and discussed at great length with the results providing favorable views for both battles as most important.

This Round Table discussion was the best we ever had and brought to the attention of all in attendance that we truly have some fine "local historians" in our Round Table. We can all give ourselves a pat on the back for this most entertaining evening. One final comment on our program, Gettysburg and Vicksburg had this in common they both had a great impact on the outcome of the Civil War and the restoration of our great nation.

Did You Know

In our last two meetings we have had some discussions regarding flags. This month's addition of "Did You Know" will add some additional information on the "colors" and color-bearers. Colors will be defined as a banner, a source of unit pride and honor. The regimental colors of Federal units, generally a silken U.S. flag and often the flag of the state to which the regiment belonged, had a very special meaning to units of Civil War armies. Like the standards of Roman Legions and I'm sure of many other military units, they embodied the souls and honor of their regiments. The U.S. flag had the regiment's number emblazoned on its stripes along with the names of the principal battles in which the regiment had fought. A regiment's colors identified it, marked its location on the field, led it in the charge, and served as a rallying point in the event of retreat. The regiments' commanders accepted these flags from local officials and other dignitaries, and they promised to defend them, their honor, and the values that they represented. From time of acceptance until the regiment was mustered out of the service, the colors were the special responsibility of the regiments color company and its color guard. It was a great feat of arms to capture an enemy's colors; on the other hand, it was considered a disgrace for a regiment to lose its flags unless under highly questionable circumstances.

Confederate colors were more varied than their Union counter-parts in both fabric and design. The most commonly carried flag was the well-known battle flag, with the St. Andrews cross. Other units carried the original Stars and Bars and late in the war the National Flag, known as the Stainless Banner. You may recall we had reviewed these Confederate flags at those previous meetings.

The two flags carried by Union regiments measured six by six and a half feet; the Confederate battle flag was four feet square, infantry carried this flag, their artillery flag was three feet square and their cavalry flag was 30 inches square. Both sides carried their flags on polished wood staffs. A gilded eagle topped the staff of the U.S. flag. Both armies required that a "color-bearer" carry the flag, generally a color sergeant. A color-bearer was entrusted with the task of carrying the flag, especially into combat. A color guard was a handpicked group charged with protecting the color-bearers during combat. The color guard was a group of eight corporals these men were selected for their bearing and character. Their place in a ten-company regiment was at the left of the right center company, therefore, near the center of the regiment's line. Ideally the color-bearers, flanked by two ranking corporals, were in the first rank; three corporals formed behind them in the second rank; the remaining three corporals formed behind them as file closers. Ideally yes, realistically no. Many regiments had two flags in the front rank or line, there often was not ten-companies in the regiment, in the Civil War the attrition rate

was so high the prescribed color guard was a luxury that regiments could not afford. This attrition rate meant that it was not unusual for color-bearers and members of the color guard to be made up of privates rather than sergeants and corporals in many and perhaps most regiments.

While it was a great honor to be selected as color-bearer or as a member of the color guard it was without question a very dangerous assignment. With these honors came a very high risk, because of the high visibility of the "colors" the men who carried the flags and those who protected them were major targets on the battlefield. Because the color-bearer did not carry a weapon his vulnerability was the greater of the two assignments, since color guards did carry arms. Any one who reads and studies the Civil War will most assuredly come across passages in most books relating to the loss of the color-bearer in battle. A high honor, but all too often a one-way ticket to the casualty list.

November Quiz

Q.1 The following three General grade officers, two Federal and one Confederate, had a very significant factor common to each one of them. The Federal officers were Brigadier General John White Geary and Major General Montgomery C. Meigs. The Confederate officer was Brigadier General William Nelson Pendleton. This common factor would remain with these officers throughout their lives. Can you identify this common factor?

Q.2 He had the title "Knight of Romance", he was a Federal officer with a less than stellar reputation. "A newspaper humbug", "the most hated or dreaded of all cavalry officers." These are two of the unflattering descriptions of him. He had a lack of personal courage under fire, regarded by some as "notorious." He earned his title, because of a reputation for self-aggrandizing inaccuracies, and an ambition that was more than his accomplishments. Who was this Federal officer?

Q.3 This Federal regiment sustained the greatest number of battle fatalities of any Federal infantry unit in a single battle in the Civil War. Can you name the regiment and the battle where they experienced their losses?

November Meeting

Our next Round Table meeting will be on **November 12th at 6:30 PM**. We will meet at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Please make your dinner reservations and meal selections by, **Wednesday November 6th**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533**. Please make your reservations by our cutoff date and speak clearly when leaving a message. Dinner selections for this meeting include **Shepard's Pie, Baked Ziti and Baked Haddock**. Our meal price is \$15.00. If you make a reservation and cannot attend please pay for your meal to save the Round Table the expense.

On October 22nd the Board of Directors held a meeting, numerous items were reviewed by the Board, these items will be presented to the membership at our November meeting. The items reviewed are of importance to the Round Table those attending the meeting should be prepared to give their input and comments on the issues presented.

The Board did accept a suggestion by Cathie Kennedy to establish a "sunshine message." This message would be sent to members hospitalized or to the family of a member who passes away. We would ask any member who is aware of one of these situations to notify Mrs. Kennedy and she will take care of the "sunshine message." Cathie can be contacted at one of our meetings or in the following manner.

Mrs. Cathie Kennedy, 114 Old Spies Church Road, Reading, Pa. 19606. Telephone number 610-779-6923, e-mail address kenwyckel@aol.com. Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

Our Round Table program for our November meeting will be a presentation by Mr. Tom Vossler. Tom is the Chairman of the Board of "The Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg", he has held this position the past one and one half years and has been associated with the "Friends" the past five and one half years. The "Friends", a non-profit organization, had its beginning in 1989 as a small group of volunteers dedicated to the preservation of resources associated with the Battle of Gettysburg. From this beginning it has grown to some 21,000 members and supporters worldwide. Mr. Vossler will speak on the variety of activities the "Friends" provide in support of the organization's mission. The mission involves the vital aspects of preservation, rehabilitation and enhancement of the Gettysburg National Park, including battlefield land and structures, buildings, homes and monuments in the Park. He will also comment on the educational efforts of the organization, such as, tours and seminars of the battle and the battlefield, site locations of interest and importance and Gettysburg as a center for learning and remembering our nations historical past at Gettysburg.

With our Round Table emphasizing Gettysburg this campaign this is a meeting you do not want to miss, look forward to seeing you all on November 12th.

Tony Reilly
Newsletter Editor

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

December 2002

Round Table Business

Our November meeting, attended by 56 members and guest, got underway with Ron Rhein presiding. Our first order of business was a report by our new secretary Rich Kennedy on items and issues reviewed at a board of directors meeting held on October 22 at the home of our president Dr. David Valuska.

Our first item of business presented to the membership was to suggest a two day field trip in June of 2003. Dates for the trip were, at this time, June 21 and 22 a Saturday and Sunday. Gettysburg will be the site of this field trip, this location will allow us to continue our Round Table focus during this year's campaign on Gettysburg and the great battle that took place there in July of 1863. The overnight trip will give us two full days of tours at sites we can select and an evening catered dinner on Saturday night. Members who do not wish to make the bus trip would have the option of driving on their own on one or both days. Which day of the battle to be featured on our trip is open to review, however the second day action and events seems to have the greatest interest. If this is the choice, the second day, and we still have some time a number of other locations may also be available to us to visit. Points of interest to consider would be Culp's Hill, McPherson's Farm and Woods, Oak Hill, Barlow's Knoll or a visit to the East Cavalry field where General Gregg's forces engaged Stuart's troopers on July 3 of the battle. We should press to resolve these issues at our next meeting. Gettysburg is a busy place in June.

Two future sites for battlefield tours were reviewed, they were Petersburg which could include Pamplin Park, a great place to visit, Old Blandford Church, the Crater, Siege Museum and Grant's headquarters at City Point. The second location a more ambitious tour would take us to Vicksburg. This trip would require going by air. It was suggested a trip club could be developed whereby members could pay a monthly fee toward the trip. A positive response by the membership would be necessary before inquiries could be made regarding such a trip.

A final consideration regarding our field trips had to do with scheduling the trips earlier in June or May to avoid the heat factors faced in late June.

Petitions were formulated and passed among the attending members to be signed in support of the efforts of the United States Congress to approve legislation of \$50 million toward protection of Civil War sites. The petitions will be sent to Senators Arlan Specter and Rick Santorum to support this legislation. The United States House of Representatives has approved this legislation by a unanimous vote.

Additional business items were the appointment of Tom Tate and Rich Kennedy as program chairmen for 2003-2004. It was suggested that our Round Table directory be updated as soon as possible. The possibility of the Round Table adopting a Civil War monument was discussed this would be a financial commitment rather than a hands-on commitment. Additional review is required on this issue.

As reviewed in our November newsletter Cathie Kennedy has accepted the responsibility of establishing a "sunshine message" whenever a member is hospitalized or passes away. An appropriate card from the Round Table would be sent. It would be kept simple, with just a card. The success of this program is incumbent upon a member notifying Cathie when they become aware of one of these situations. Her telephone number is 610-779-6923, her e-mail address kenywyckel@aol.com.

Jack Gurney provided a Civil War statuette "Wounded to the Rear" by John Rogers, New York City sculptor. The statuette circa 1865-1866 also had written on it "One More Shot" it identified two wounded Union soldiers with hopes of getting off one more shot, but ordered to the rear. Jack also had one of his hand made lamps, this one with a very old Confederate soldier with a long white beard stating "like hell it's over with." The old fellow looked like he meant business. This lamp will be chanced off at our next meeting. As always our thanks to Jack, he always comes through.

Arlan Christ provided our monthly treasurer's report. Previous balance \$3,441.71, new income \$1,466.00, new expenses \$788.55 bringing our present balance to \$4,119.16. Arlan also indicated he would be receiving Civil War prints each month from our September speaker Dale Gallon for display at our meetings. This month's print was a scene at the base of Little Round Top probably in the area of Devil's Den.

Our last business item is very important for we need to decide on a new closing date for our annual membership renewal. One suggestion was June, instead of October, giving new members the benefit of a full season rather than starting in November. Pat Christ our membership chairwomen suggested September 1 instead of June, hopefully with the same results or at worst an October beginning. At our December meeting we should review and come to a conclusion regarding this important issue. Pat did advise the membership that we had 102 renewals and added 5 new members giving us 107 members with 3 openings available to our member cap of 110.

Book Raffle / Preservation

Tom Tate starts his report of with a "Wow" stating the number of books members donated at the November meeting set a record. He extends his thanks to all the contributors. Because of the number he did not announce the titles. He did state that Paul Foust donated two books in memory of Peggy Reichardt. He indicated we should look for some specials at our December raffle.

Jack Gurney's lamp will be raffled off separately, \$1.00 per ticket, in December. Another \$100.00 was raised in November from our raffle bringing our preservation fund to \$762.00

The Round Table presented our speaker in November Tom Vossler with a check in the amount of \$150.00 for his association "The Friends at the National Parks at Gettysburg."

November Program Review

Our program for the evening was presented by Mr. Tom Vossler who is the present Chairman of the Board of "The Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg." Mr. Vossler spoke on the various activities the "Friends" provide in support of the organization's mission.

Some 140 years ago, two great armies met on the rolling hills of south central Pennsylvania, at this location the greatest battle ever fought in the Americas took place for three days and Gettysburg became etched in history forever. The mission of the

"Friends" is to support, protect and enhance the resources associated with the Battle of Gettysburg, the Gettysburg National Park and the Eisenhower National Historic Site. In achieving their mission they hope to ensure that all generations of Americans will understand and appreciate what took place here and the sacrifice given by the men who fought here. Mr. Vossler recognizes his organization as the world's leader in battlefield preservation, which includes preservation, restoration, reconstruction and rehabilitation. These factors include such efforts as sustaining the existing form, integrity and materials of the sites while accurately depicting features and the character of property as it appeared in 1863.

Our speaker gave a review of the history of the development of the battlefield, starting with the casualties and the problems they created for those living in the Gettysburg area. One can easily understand the problems created by 7,708 dead, 26,856 wounded, 10,800 missing and some 5,000 dead horses. A Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial group was chartered to run the battlefield and assist in solving these problems. In 1890 Dan Sickles authored legislation turning the battlefield into a park with the War Department taking charge of park layout and administration. In the 1930's the National Park Service took over the administration of the parks 2,530 acres, 23.2 miles of avenues, 1,728 monuments, markers and cannons. During World War I the park was a training center for the U.S. Army, in World War II a prisoner of war camp for German soldiers. Today the park, designated in 1975 as a Historic District by Congress, has over 20,000 acres, the battlefield covering some 5,984 acres of land inside the Park boundary. Despite this there is still some 1,200 acres of the battlefield land available for residential or commercial development. Gettysburg also contains the largest collection of outdoor sculpture in the world some 1,600 monuments, in addition 400 cannons populate the battlefield and 31 miles of avenues are located in today's park.

Tom provided comment on many of the ongoing efforts by the "Friends", cannon and carriage restoration, repairs to the Pennsylvania State Memorial, clearing trees and thinning brush to restore the 1863 land appearances. Other programs improve woodlots, woodlands, orchards and work to improve wetlands and wildlife habitats. Some 40.24 miles of fences, worm, and rail and post types are being restored to 1863 identities.

Education is one of their main objectives and a new Gettysburg Interactive Education Center will be housed on the first floor of the 6,700 square foot Rupp House. This center should provide adults and families an inventive way to experience Gettysburg, in addition to learning fully of the military action, they will appreciate the cultural, political and economic impact the battle and the war had on this country.

We could continue to list many more specific successes of the "Friends" organization in land preservation, 370 acres preserved, monument restoration and educational tours and seminars. Perhaps the "Friends" greatest success is its growth from a small group of volunteers dedicated to its mission to an organization of 21,000 members and supporters worldwide.

Tom's presentation was not only about yesterday and today, it is about tomorrow and all the other tomorrows that are yet to come. A part of these tomorrows will be the continuing preservation challenges faced by "the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg." Money is certainly a need for organizations such as his to be successful, a great deal of money. This is something we all can think about when we speak of

preservation. Tom Vossler presented our Round Table with an outstanding presentation, our thanks to Tom for joining us as a guest and speaker.

Did You Know

In January 1865, General William T. Sherman was stuck in a political quagmire because of his racist views. Tens of thousands of former slaves, liberated as Sherman's columns swept through the South, attached themselves to his army creating a serious logistical challenge. To quiet the fervor in Washington, as to what to do with the freedmen, Sherman produced a document that some historians have called one of the most important papers of the Civil War. The document known matter-of-factly as Sherman's Special Field Order No. 15 allocated land use to former slaves. This document, also referred to as "40 acres and a mule", continues to resonate today in demands that the U.S. Government pay reparations for slavery.

The issuance of this order had circumstances surrounding it that revealed the General's motives may have been less than noble, his promise less than sincere. In fact, it did not change his proslavery stance as many believed at the time. It could be argued he was merely trying to save his hide from the pressure placed on him by Washington regarding what to do with the liberated slaves and he issued the order only because he knew it would never become the law of the land. This political pressure followed Sherman throughout his Civil War career and reached an escalated point in January of 1865. While his performance in the war had made him famous, his racist policies and views were not favorable with the views of radical Republican politicians and with Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase who cautioned Sherman of the political perils of his proslavery attitude. Chase wrote Sherman: "You are understood to be opposed to black men employed as soldiers, and to regard them as a set of pariahs, almost without rights." General Halleck also wrote Sherman stating: "They say that you have manifested an almost criminal dislike to the Negro." The comments of Washington's understanding of Sherman's attitude were correct, however Sherman was not stupid. As commander he knew any order he issued was temporary until Congress approved it. He knew Field Order No. 15 had little chance of approval. On February 6, 1865 this order died in the House of Representatives by a margin of 3 to 1.

On Sherman's part, once he issued the order, he did not concern himself with it, its execution and he did not show the slightest interest in its fate. Ironically, 14 decades later, this document by a proslavery general may today reemerge as possible proof of the governments promise to compensate former slaves. In 1865 it was "40 acres and a mule", today or tomorrow it could be a great deal more, for us that is yet to be decided. For General Sherman, well he sleeps silently, and who knows maybe with a smile on his face, because he still does not have to be concerned about it.

December Quiz

Q.1 Robert E. Lee graduated second in the West Point class of 1829. His graduating class had 46 cadets. Can you name the cadet who graduated first in this class?

Q.2 On November 25, 1863 during the Battle of Chattanooga, the Federal army assaulted Missionary Ridge, seven of the color-bearers who scaled Missionary Ridge to plant their flags on top of the Ridge received the Medal of Honor. One of the first to reach the top with flag was a young officer of the Twenty Fourth Wisconsin Regiment. He was later to be known as "the boy colonel of the west." Miraculously he was not

killed in this action; if he had, we would not have had or known his famous son. Can you name this young Federal officer?

Q.3 In a face to face confrontation this Confederate officer, angry over losing his command, addressed his commanding officer and said to him these words, "you commenced your cowardly and contemptible persecution of me soon after the battle of Shiloh, and you have kept it up ever since. I have stood your meanness as long as I intend to. You have played the part of a damned scoundrel, and are a coward, and if you were any part of a man I would slap your jaws and force you to resent it. You may as well not issue any orders to me, for I will not obey them, and I will hold you personally responsible for any indignities you endeavor to inflict upon me. You have threatened to arrest me for not obeying your orders promptly. I dare you to do it, and I say to you that if you ever again try to interfere with me or cross my path it will be at the peril of your life." Name the officer who made these comments and the officer to whom the comments were made?

December Meeting

Our December meeting will be held on Tuesday December 10. Meeting time is 6:30 at The Inn at Moselem Springs. In keeping with past December meetings our program will feature songs popular during the Civil War, and popular in the South. Our entertainment will be provided by the 2nd South Carolina String Band who come to us from the Gettysburg area.

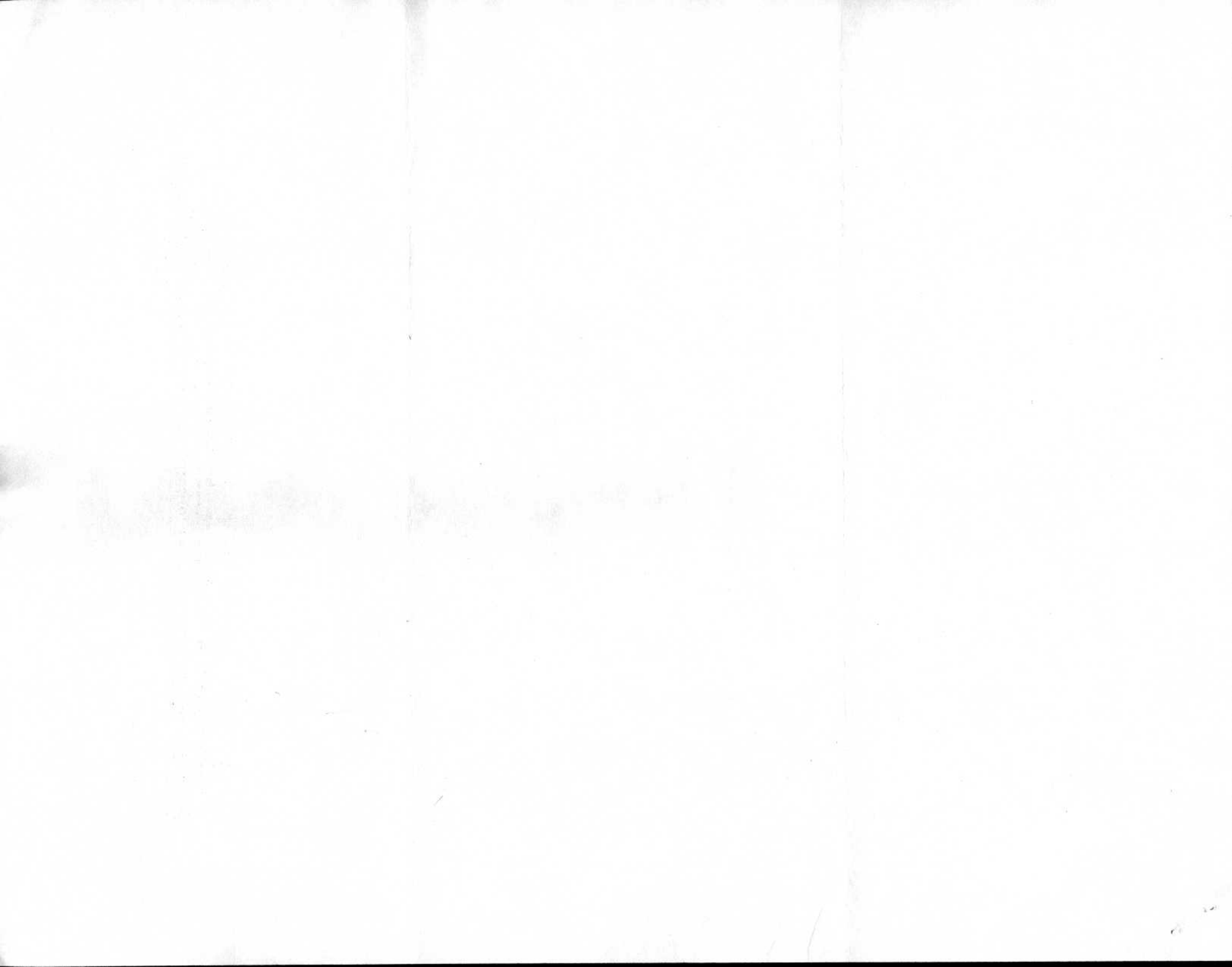
Members are encouraged to wear period costume to enhance the evening festivities. But costume or not come and join the Round Table for this festive evening, our December meetings are always a most enjoyable night.

Members planning to attend the meeting must make their reservations and meal selections by **Wednesday December 4**. Please make your reservations by the cutoff date. The Round Table thanks you for your cooperation. For reservations please call **610-683-1533** and speak clearly when leaving a message. Dinner selections for our December meeting include **Quakertown Roast; Baked Manicotti and Grilled Salmon**. Prior to this meeting hot hoerve d' uevers will be available to the membership and guest. For our Christmas meeting and program our dinner price will be \$20.00. As always if you make a reservation and cannot attend please pay for your meal selection to save the Round Table this expense.

Final Comment

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

Tony Reilly
Newsletter Editor



THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

January 2003

Round Table Business

A very fine turnout of 76 members and guest attended our December meeting. Our meeting opened with Rich Kennedy advising the Round Table we received a response to our petition letter on the efforts of the United States Congress to approve legislation of \$50 million toward protection of Civil War sites. The response came from the office of Senator Rick Santorum, who has a positive view of support for protection of these sites. Rich followed by presenting a proclamation to Dave Valuska from the Board of Directors and the membership on his recognition by the German government for his promotion of German culture, heritage and language. Dave received from the German government the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. Our proclamation was also to recognize Dr. Valuska's outstanding work. The members gave Dave a very well deserved standing ovation.

Mike Gabriel read a thank you note the Round Table received from The Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg for our generous contribution to their organization, the note was signed by the organizations president V.J. Monrean.

Dave Valuska advised work on our summer field trip continues with an effort to obtain hotel reservations for our overnight stay, kept tuned in more information to come at future meetings.

The Round Table provides this information in case of bad weather on the night of a meeting. The following radio stations will carry cancellation information. In Reading stations WEEU AM, 850 and WRFY FM, 102.5, in Allentown station WAEB AM 790 hopefully we will not have to make use of them.

Our speaker for January will be changed due to the speaker, Roy Gehris having surgery. His topic was to be the 1st. Pennsylvania Cavalry at Gettysburg we look forward to his recovery and an opportunity to be our guest at a future date. Dave asked for a volunteer from the membership to speak in January if they so desired. If no volunteer, Dave will speak on Pennsylvania in the Civil War and Berks County at Gettysburg.

Arlan Christ presented the treasurer's report, present balance \$4,119.16, new income \$1,000.00, new expenses \$1,305.72 providing a new balance of \$3,813.44. \$762.00 of this balance is held for preservation.

Jack Gurney's monthly contribution was a U.S. Rifle Model 1862 Remington Cal .58 plus the rifle's associate bayonet and scabbard.

Arlan Christ also provided a print of Dale Gallon's "The Drummer," a young confederate soldier. This print is Mr. Gallon's latest release.

Looking ahead to next year's campaign starting in September, 2003 our program chairmen, Tom Tate and Rich Kennedy, would welcome any member who would like to make a presentation at a future meeting. If you have an interest and a topic speak with either Tom or Rich and they'll put you on the speakers list for next year.

Membership Report

Pat Christ's report presented a membership count of 108 with one pending. Pat gave the newsletter a list of our six new members and we list their names here and extend to each of them a warm Round Table welcome to our organization. Dave and Brenda Fowler, Brian Heatwole, Kenneth A. Piltz, Arvid Seifarth and Bruce Updegrove. Again welcome we're glad to have you with us.

Book Raffle

Two raffles were held at our December meeting; the regular book raffle and a special one for Jack Gurney's lamp. Our lamp winner was president Dave Valuska, he takes home the old confederate soldier. Together the raffles advanced our preservation fund by another \$156.00 giving us a preservation fund total of \$918.00.

Tom Tate stated Paul Foust has been donating books in memory of Peggy Reichardt. He will mark these books so our members can identify them in the future. Members continue to donate books to be part of our raffles, the Round Table thanks all members for their support of our preservation programs greatly aided by the raffles.

December Program Review

Our program for the evening was a repeat performance by the 2nd. South Carolina String Band. This group of four gentlemen comes from the Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Adams County area. The men initially were re-enactors of Company I, 2nd. South Carolina Volunteer Infantry. When music replaced the rifle in 1989 the group concentrated on minstrel type music of Stephen Foster and Dan Emmitt with Southern themes their most popular choices for songs. The band became a recreation of a Civil War camp band. Most of the songs played at our meeting were songs written before the Civil War and brought to the war due to their popularity. The organization plays at concerts, dances and Round Tables such as our own. Members of the band are Joe Ewers, Fred Ewers (the singer), Mike Paul and Joe Whitney. Ten songs were played for our entertainment highlighted by "The Battle Cry of Freedom," "The Bonnie Blue Flag" and an audience participation song "Goober Peas." The evening presentation was well received by our membership who gave the group a stand up applause and appreciation. A big Round Table thank-you to the 2nd. South Carolina String Band.

Did You Know

Roads of the Civil War played an important part in the movement of troops and supplies. During the war, almost all roads were of dirt that became quagmires of mud after heavy rains. As we all know there were no "I-95s." Only a few hard-surface all-weather roads existed. These were called "macadamized" roads after their inventor, Scottish civil engineer John McAdam, who in turn was indebted to the road builders of the ancient Roman Empire. The pavement was made of compressed layers of gravel set on a cement bed with limestone shoulders. Ditches at the sides of the road provided necessary drainage. After the advent of the automobile, it became standard to bind the gravel with tar or asphalt for greater durability and to reduce dust. Of course this was not the case in the mid 19th century and dust could still be a problem. If you were at the head of a column of troops it was not too bad, if you were further back in the column, especially infantry, you can be sure you would get a steady diet of dust. Having served in the infantry myself I can tell you dust is not very tasty.

One of the best paved roads of the time was the Shenandoah Valley turnpike, put to good use by Stonewall Jackson in the 1862 campaign. The road was opened in 1840 and ran for 80 miles from Winchester to Staunton. But during the war such roads were

rarities, and armies had to move their men and equipment over the existing dirt roads, as they had since the war began. Also dating from ancient times was the technique of surfacing muddy roads with branches and small tree trunks laid crosswise to allow passage of wagon trains and artillery over mud. From its appearance, this was called "corduroy road." This type of road was most likely to be found in assisting the movement of troops and wagon trains over poor roads during the war.

Because the felling and cutting of saplings and branches large enough to sustain heavy loads required considerable labor, fence rails were used if they were available. Engineering officers found corduroying a very simple affair when there were plenty of fence rails, but found that sever labor and time was required in their absence. Engineering officers also found that two good fence lines on both sides of a road would furnish enough rails to corduroy a strip of road as long as one of the fence lines as to make it passable.

A plank road, corduroy surfaced with heavy planking, was a permanent and more sophisticated road generally used over swamps and boggy areas. A road between Winston-Salem and Fayetteville, North Carolina was the longest such road in the United States, being 120 miles long.

Corduroying of roads for military purposes during the Civil War seems to have been exclusively a Yankee technique. It was not because the South did not have the engineering capabilities to match the Northern plan of corduroying and planking roads. In the Confederacy timber was not to be procured for such purposes; what little there might be was economically served out for fuel. Surely rebel armies must have corduroyed some roads for military purposes, but I have not found any specific mention of such efforts in my readings. Perhaps one of our members can shed some light on this issue.

Who did the work of building the military roads, generally it was the Pioneer corps, moving behind the main body of infantry and ahead of the heavy trains, that carried the burden of constructing corduroy roads. If circumstances required other units would be drafted to assist in the road work. Pioneers also built bridges, some permanent structures and "side roads" for the movement of wagon and artillery trains through heavily wooded terrain. The last two chores were frequently bigger jobs.

Road building in the Civil War was not a simple task nor was it of limited importance. It can be stated it was an important factor in the strategic supply of Civil War armies and could be equated to contributing to victory on the field of battle. In a future issue of "Did You Know" we will look closer at strategic supply of Civil War armies.

January Quiz

Q.1 This Confederate States Captain was the only woman to be commissioned an officer in either the Union or Confederate armies during the Civil War. Can you identify this female officer?

Q.2 The Battle of Sabine Crossroads, fought on April 8, 1864 some 40 miles south of Shreveport, Louisiana was known by another name. It was also referred to as "Stonewall's Posthumous Victory." Can you provide the other name for this battle?

Q.3 This battle fought on March 15, 1865 was the first deliberate resistance to the Federal armies march through Georgia and the Carolinas. This battle was known by four different names. Can you identify one of the names given to this battle?

January Meeting

Our January meeting will be held on Tuesday January 14, 2003. Our meeting time is 6:30 PM at The Inn at Moselem Springs. We request dinner reservations and meal selections be made by **Wednesday January 8th**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533**. Please make your reservations by our cutoff date and speak clearly when leaving a message for reservations and meal selection. Dinner selections for this meeting include **Baked Ham, Baked Ziti and Baked Haddock**. Our meal price is \$15.00. If you make a reservation and cannot attend please pay for your meal to save the Round Table the expense.

As noted in the business section of our newsletter our program for the evening will be presented by Dave Valuska, as our scheduled speaker cannot be with us due to surgery. If we have a late volunteer our program will be the speaker's choice. Look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Final Comment

It is probable you will receive this newsletter earlier than usual, possibly before Christmas. With this in mind the Round Table again wishes all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be safe and come back next year!

Tony Reilly
Newsletter Editor

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

February 2003

Round Table Business

We opened our January meeting with 56 members and guest in attendance. Ron Rhein led us through a brief business meeting.

New member certificates will be presented, to those in attendance, at our February meeting. There was no new information available at this meeting regarding our summer field trip to Gettysburg, hopefully we will have something to present at our February meeting.

Arlan Christ gave our treasurer's report. Current balance \$3,813.44, new income \$1,756.00, new expenses \$1,455.02 giving the Round Table a balance of \$4,114.42.

Arlan again provided a copy, in frame, of one of Dale Gallon's latest works, "What Are Your Orders." The print identifies Colonel Strong Vincent commander of the 3rd. Brigade, 1st. Division of the 5th. Corps, Federal Army receiving orders to take his brigade and place it on Little Round Top to prevent the threatening envelopment of that location by the Confederate forces. This depicted action took place on July 2, 1863. A point of interest here regarding Colonel Vincent, he was from Erie, Pennsylvania and he was promoted to Brigadier General on July 3, 1863. He was mortally wounded on July 2 he died four days later.

Jack Gurney gave us a view of an 1860 U.S. Army Staff Surgeon's Capitol Operating Case. The case belonged to Captain Charles Brisbane of the 1st. U.S. Cavalry he was the unit surgeon.

We again thank Arlan and Jack for their interesting contributions to our meetings.

Book Raffle / Preservation

Tom Tate's raffle ticket sales for January amounted to \$107.00 in new preservation money. This brings our preservation fund to \$1,030.00. Thanks to all members for purchasing raffle tickets and supporting our preservation program, keep buying you might get lucky. Member Charlie Trafford gave the raffle \$5.00 but took no tickets stating he was fearful of winning and he already has too many books to read. Several more books have been donated to our raffle including "Gettysburg, The Third Day" by Jeffrey Wert. Paul Faust donated this book in memory of Peggy Reichardt,

I came across two items on preservation that I would like to add to Tom's report that the members may be interested in knowing. The Pennsylvania Memorial Project, work on the Pennsylvania Monument at Gettysburg, a project started in 1999 and scheduled for completion this past November, 2002 has been delayed due to our cold weather. Work slated to start in October 2002, to complete the project, will not start until the early spring of this year. A new completion date has not been announced hopefully it will be completed by the time of our summer field trip. It would give us something else to look forward to seeing on our trip.

Our second item was an announcement that more than a century worth of sediment was removed from the gun turret of the Civil War ironclad U.S.S. Monitor. After three

months of excavation a trove of tableware items were discovered in the turret. Pieces of this silverware carried names and initials that matched men who served on the vessel. It is believed that the objects recovered from the turret fell into the turret when the ship rolled over as it was sinking on December 31, 1862. The galley was located almost directly below the turret's position on the Monitor's deck. To date some 400 artifacts have been recovered from the Civil War ironclad.

Program Review

In the absence of our scheduled speaker for our January program, Roy Gehris, due to a surgical procedure, our president, Dave Valuska, presented the Round Table with a program titled "Pennsylvania in the Civil War-Berks County at Gettysburg."

Dave's comments covered a number of issues starting with "why did the war come and why Pennsylvania got involved." He spoke of the Northern position of maintaining the Union and the Southern position of States Rights. How slavery was a major factor, especially to the South and while it was a concern in the North he indicated a less than 5% Union abolitionist view. Dave spoke and identified the political and economical differences between North and South and the impact of the election of a Republican Administration on pushing the South toward secession.

Pennsylvania was in the middle of this Union mix and her interest matched those of the other Union states. To Pennsylvania preservation of the Union was the No. "1" requirement. With the Confederate attack and success on Fort Sumter in South Carolina, Pennsylvania and the North were shocked by this act, the North prepared for war, a war the Nation was ill prepared to fight.

Moving to military issues Dave then addressed what an army is and how it was assembled. He defined the make up of an army, the corps, divisions, brigades and the regiments coming from all points in the country to fill these units. He explained how these units were formed to create an army. Local leaders working to put together companies of soldiers representing familiar locations within the states including our own State of Pennsylvania. The election of officers to lead the companies and to bring them together to create regiments. Camp Curtin in Harrisburg played a vital role in the establishment of many Pennsylvania regiments.

Dave provided a review of a number of Pennsylvania regiments and the part they played in key battles throughout the war and especially during the Battle of Gettysburg. He provided some specifics on the following regiments from the battle. The 151st, 88th, 149th, 143rd, 93rd, 46th and 153rd. He indicated the state was represented by some 215 regiments during the war. The conduct and contributions of Pennsylvania regiments, including those from Berks, Schuylkill and Lehigh Counties had much to do with Union victory. Dave recommended a guide to the membership for those interested in great detail of Pennsylvania regiments at Gettysburg, the book "Guide To Pennsylvania Troops at Gettysburg" by Richard Rollins and David Shultz.

Dave also spoke of the important contribution made by Woman's Auxiliary organizations in the provision of certain items of clothing, their contributions to Christian commissions and where possible to nursing the wounded.

I close the review with an interesting comment by Dave, he spoke of the identification of the nation's greatest generation, as that of the Second World War, I believe he also identified the generation of 1861 as the true greatest generation. It would be difficult to choose a winner between them. However, I believe we who live today in

our generation are the real winners, because of the two greatest generations. Thank you Doctor Valuska from the members of your Round Table.

Did You Know

Slavery, the legalized social institution in which humans are held as property or chattels. The condition of being a slave, who is a person owned by and completely subject to another. So states Webster. In viewing the differences between North and South, slavery is certainly a major difference, however we should keep in mind that the great majority of Southerners did not own slaves. It is estimated, and probably factual, that only one in four Southern families in the 1850 to 1860 period had any slaves. Half of the slave owning families had less than five slaves. About 11,000 families had fifty or more slaves of this 11,000 some 3,000 families had 100 or more with one family accounting for over 1,000 slaves. Total slave owning families were slightly less than 384,000 families. These figures represent an 1860 census of slave holding families.

Slaveholding was more important in some parts of the South than others. Half the slaves in the United States lived in five states, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Half the people in these states, called the deep South, were slaves. They were used chiefly in growing cotton, sugar-cane and rice. Slaveholding in the upper South, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky was much smaller. Here tobacco was king, but the land was wearing out from continual tobacco growing. Slaves were expensive, farming no longer profitable, so they were sold at high prices to cotton belt planters.

Along with the concentration of slaveholding went a concentration of wealth. According to one estimate a thousand families received close to half of all the income received in the South. Slaveholding or "slave power" provided political influence and this the great planters had, even though small farmers far outnumbered the great planters. Small farmers took little part in politics, they looked up to the planters and did not dispute their right to manage and direct public affairs. Thus the great planters, despite their smaller numbers, held in their hands the greatest concentration of wealth and power.

At this point we might ask with so few Southerners owning slaves, why did whites defend the slave system. A key reason was the belief that Negroes were an inferior race and had to be kept under control. Southerners also believed slavery was the only way the two races could live side by side. Another reason was the ambition of a small farmer to become a slaveholder, a farmer who possessed a family of slaves. This provided greater social standing and the opportunity to make more money. Even without slaves they defended their constitutional right to hold them. They were proud of their Southern heritage and resented any criticism of the South's "peculiar institution"- the slavery system.

Civil War Usage

Welcome to our newsletter's new feature, "Civil War Usage." While a great deal of the language used by the generation that fought the American Civil War remains with us a great deal has also changed, with much that had meaning to our forefathers not having the same meaning today to us. Other language of that time has been lost or became obscure. In addition as we read and study the Civil War there are many terms that may not be familiar to all or some of us. These terms or language can have an important bearing on what we read and at times on what we hear in presentations.

I have not design this feature to be very lengthy each month or to take up newsletter space. It will cover a few items of words and language each month. Hopefully it will be a helpful tool to all and from time to time provide an item of information to help clarify one of those, and your, questions on Civil War usage.

Well let's get started and see how we do.

Echelon---A formation of a number of Infantry units arranged with each component (unit) standing or moving forward in parallel and maintaining a set interval to the right or left of the unit it followed. Echelon is borrowed from the French, and means "a rung of a ladder."

To Enfilade---To fire along the length of an opponent's line or trench. Fire from positions parallel to the enemy's front line. Fire can be from Infantry, Artillery and at times Cavalry. This type of fire can be deadly to the receiving force.

Antebellum---In general speech this term designates the period between 1812 and 1860. A latin phrase meaning "before the war." It could be applied to any prewar period, but the label is generally used to designate the prewar South in the United States.

Hish and Hash---A meal of whatever edibles were at hand. Usually an infantry term.

Again welcome to this new feature, as we move along each month let me know what you think of it, good, bad or whatever.

February Quiz

Q.1 On March 8, 1862 the Confederate States Ship Virginia, commonly called "Merrimack", attacked the wooden ships of the Union fleet in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Commanded by Captain Franklin Buchanan of Maryland the Virginia had great success on this day sinking the USS Cumberland, setting fire to the USS Congress and damaging the USS Minnesota. Captain Buchanan's great success was tempered by a personal loss in this action can you identify his loss?

Q.2 On April 16, 1862 the Congress of the States'-Rights Confederacy passed a federal act, or law if you prefer, which was a first in American history. This type statute would have a great impact on the Civil War and would be in evidence in future wars involving American participation. Identify the act?

Q.3 In this battle, a Confederate Army victory, some 15,600 casualties resulted from the over all fight. During a period of six hours in this battle 13,000 casualties took place, or one man shot every 1.66 seconds over the course of the six hours. With nearly 100,000 men engaged on both sides, combined, it was one of the deadliest battles of the American Civil War. Name the battle?

February Meeting

Our February meeting will be held on Tuesday February 11, 2003. Our meeting time is 6:30 PM at The Inn at Moselem Springs. We request dinner reservations and meal selections be made by **Wednesday February 5th**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533**. Please make your reservations by our cutoff date and speak clearly when leaving a message for reservations and meal selection. Dinner selections for our meeting will be **Shepherd's Pie, Baked Manicotti and Grilled Salmon**. Our meal price is \$15.00.

Our program for the evening will be "An Evening with George G. Meade." Our speaker will be Andy Waskie. Look forward to seeing a good turnout for what should be a fine evening.

Tony Reilly---Newsletter Editor

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

March 2003

Round Table Business

A very fine turnout of 74 members and guest were in attendance for our February meeting. Considering the very cold weather we have been experiencing this turnout was a fine compliment to the health and success of our Round Table.

Ron Rhein led our business meeting in his always entertaining fashion. Our main order of business was an update on our summer field trip. Difficulties have been experienced in finding overnight accommodations in the Gettysburg area. Most hotels are looking for multiple night patrons. We are considering staying in the Chambersburg area and motoring to Gettysburg for the battlefield tours. Points of interest in Chambersburg and Cashtown could be included in our trip. Ron indicated we should have final arrangements to present to the membership at our March meeting. We are still looking at June 21& 22 as our tour dates.

New member certificates were not ready for presentation to new members this also will be addressed at our March meeting.

Arlan Christ presented the treasurer's report. Current balance \$4,114.42, new income \$932.00, new expenses \$829.81 giving the Round Table a balance of \$4,216.61. We're looking good, thanks to all.

Arlan's print of the month was "The 20th. Maine and The 15th. Alabama" depicting Confederate Colonel William C. Oats charge on the left flank of the Union Army on Little Round Top on July 2, 1863. This work also identifies men of the Union's 20th. Maine Regiment under command of Lieutenant Colonel Joshua L. Chamberlain.

Jack Gurney provided a set of 1804 French-Belgium dueling pistols, a matched pair in very good condition. Maker of the pistols was Garault of Tours, France. Jack advised the membership it was this type weapon that Aaron Burr used to kill Alexander Hamilton in their famous duel. He also noted that Hamilton's son was killed in a similar duel, three years prior to the famous duel, in the exact same location. Jack estimated the value of the pistols at ten to twenty thousand dollars in response to a question.

Ron Rhein concluded our business meeting with some very entertaining comments regarding surviving widows of Civil War veterans.

Book Raffle / Preservation

Tom Tate's report advises we set a record for the year and a record overall by purchasing \$153.00 worth of book raffle tickets. This is great news and we should applaud our efforts, lets keep it rolling, remember records are made to be broken. We all should tip our hats to Tom for his super salesmanship.

This amount brings our preservation fund for the year up to \$1,183.00. We received a number of books to be offered you can look for them in the months to come. Among those donated of particular importance is Carol Reardon's *Pickett's Charge in History and Memory*. We will raffle this book off on the night she is to be our speaker and the lucky winner can have it autographed by the writer. Another book donated in the memory

of Peggy Reichardt is titled *Shiloh*. Our own Ron Rhein and Mike Gabriel will be speaking on this battle at next November's meeting.

We have no particular preservation information to report in this newsletter, but stay tuned, something will come up as we move along.

Program Review

Our speaker for the evening was Andy Waskie. Mr. Waskie was accompanied by his wife and he came dressed in the period costume of a Major General in the Union Army. Mr. Waskie portrayed and represented to us Union Major General George G. Meade.

Andy's presentation was a definitive introduction of General Meade from his birth to the Battle of Gettysburg. George G. Meade was born on December 31, 1815 in Cadiz, Spain, eight of his brothers and sisters were also born in Spain. Meade's father was a businessman and was a naval agent for the United States Government. At an early age he returned to his native Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with his family. George Meade received his preparatory education in Philadelphia and in Washington, D.C., where he attended the school run by Salmon P. Chase, later a member of the Lincoln cabinet. Meade was well educated, came from a family with social position and was the son of a rich father with influence. His grandfather was a patriot and friend of George Washington. He was of Irish background and his family was active in the founding of the first Catholic Church's in Philadelphia.

On September 1, 1831, at the age of 15, Meade entered West Point receiving his appointment from Andrew Jackson. In 1835 he graduated 19 in a class of 56. At West Point Meade excelled in academics, but did not fair as well in military exercises, in his own view indicating he was not cut out to be a soldier. Following graduation he was commissioned in the artillery, his first post was in Florida. In Florida he took a brief part in the second Seminole War, but became ill with fever and was reassigned to duty in Massachusetts. After a year and a half he resigned from the army to become a civil engineer. At this time in history graduation from the military academy required only one year of active service to meet a graduates service requirement, unlike the present. For the next five years he was engaged first in railroad construction, then, under the War Department, he aided in conducting surveys and the establishment of the country's international boundaries. He also became an expert in building "lighthouses." In 1842 Meade reentered the army as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Topographical Engineers. His reason for returning to the army was the fact that the government would only give to army engineers the assignments he most favored and those he had great experience in doing.

During the Mexican War he served with the staff of General Zachary Taylor and saw action at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. His first service of note took place at the Battle of Monterey. Brevetted a First Lieutenant he later served under General Winfield Scott, he was present at the Battle of Vera Cruz, where he and Robert E. Lee became acquainted and good friends. This ended his combat service until the Civil War. After Mexico and prior to the Civil War he served in the Florida Keys in lighthouse construction and in 1856 was made a captain and sent to the Great Lakes to conduct the geodetic survey of the lakes. This was a survey of a large land area in which corrections are made for the curvature of the earth's surface. Moving his family to Detroit, Michigan he spent five happy years completing the survey of Lakes Huron and Superior.

In August of 1861 following the start of the Civil War he was appointed brigadier general of volunteers in command of troops of the Pennsylvania reserves, soldiers he held in very high regard. As he gained in command and battle experience, he rose steadily in the military ranks as a commander of troops. At this point Mr. Waskie took us through the many battles General Meade was involved in, including The Seven Days Battles, 2nd. Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. In this review he also explained Meade's promotions to command of larger units such as division and corps command. He noted that a wound Meade received at Glendale, during the Seven Days fight, would cause him discomfort the rest of his life. He spoke a great deal of the close relationship that existed between Meade and John Reynolds and the confidence each man had for and in each other. He noted this closeness played an important part in the early stages of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Following the Battle of Chancellorsville, as the opposing armies moved north, General Meade would soon be faced with probably the greatest crisis of his life. On June 28, 1863, at 3 A.M., he was notified, not asked, that he was to assume command of The Army of the Potomac. On July 1 to 3, 1863 Meade faced The Army of Northern Virginia, commanded by an old friend General Robert E. Lee, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in the deadliest battle of the war. History defines the outcome in great detail. While leading his troops to victory General Meade unfortunately, like his predecessors at the head of Mr. Lincoln's army, does not pursue the retreating Confederate forces to the President's satisfaction. Though Meade received a citation from Congress and a promotion to brigadier general in the Regular Army on July 3, 1863 the General's reputation suffered after this battle. However, General Meade performed very well at Gettysburg and deserves the thanks not only of Congress, but the nation.

Mr. Waskie saw General Meade as a very intelligent man, who had a sharp temper with a severe bite. Known to his men as "the goggle-eyed snapping turtle" he followed a motto of "deeds not words." I was impressed with Andy's interpretations of the general, especially when he spoke of the great contributions made by Pennsylvania soldiers. It would have been interesting to have Mr. Waskie continue his portrayal of General Meade to the end of the war, especially his association with General Grant, but time did not permit and Gettysburg was a fitting ending. General Meade performed the remaining months of the war in the shadow of General Grant and probably lived the balance of his career and life in relative obscurity even though he led the Union Army to its greatest victory at Gettysburg. It would be proper to say that those of us who live today and study and review America's greatest experience do not view George Gordon Meade as an obscurity, but fittingly as a man who contributed a great deal to the success of the Army of the Potomac and to a final victory in the Civil War.

General Meade died on November 6, 1872 from pneumonia which was aggravated by his old war wound.

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table extends our sincerest thanks and appreciation to Mr. Andy Waskie for an outstanding portrayal and presentation on Major General George G. Meade. Mr. Waskie came to us from Philadelphia where he lives and is a Professor with a Doctorate in Languages-Russian and German and I believe in History. He teaches at Temple University. Again our thanks.

Did You Know

The Medal of Honor, the highest decoration awarded by the United States, was the only national medal for valor of military merit in the 19th century. Before the Civil War, the United States had no standard metals. In August of 1782, during the Revolutionary War General George Washington authorized the award of a Purple Heart, not a metal but a cloth badge of purple silk, and not an award for wounds in battle as is today's medal. There is no record of more than three ever having been awarded. During the Mexican War enlisted men who distinguished themselves in battle were given the Meritorious Service Citation Certificate, called the Certificate of Merit, again not a medal.

In 1861, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Davis Townsend, assistant adjutant general in Washington, recommended the creation of a medal for valor. General Winfield Scott rejected the idea as "contrary to the spirit of American institutions." But the Navy liked the idea, and on December 9, 1861, Senator James W. Grimes of Iowa introduced Senate Bill No. 82 to the Senate. The bill passed both houses and President Lincoln signed it on December 21, 1861. The act authorized 200 Medals of Honor for sailors, the cost of each medal was \$1.85.

On February 17, 1862, Senator Henry Wilson of Massachusetts proposed a similar medal for the Army, and that bill was signed into law on July 12, 1862. The Army medal was to be awarded "to such noncommissioned officers and privates who most distinguished themselves by their gallantry in action." The Army ordered 2,000 medals, at a cost of \$2.00 each. Army officers did not become eligible until March 3, 1863, but the award was later made retroactive to the beginning of the Civil War. As for Naval officers it was not until 1915 that they were entitled to the award.

During the Civil War 1,521 medals were awarded, 1,196 given to soldiers, 307 to sailors, 17 to marines and one to a civilian, Doctor Mary Walker who we reviewed in a previous Did You Know some time ago. Unfortunately the medal was not awarded based on its original intent many were passed out in a haphazard manner. On June 26, 1897, new regulations were adopted regarding criteria for awarding the Medal of Honor. In 1917 some 911 awards of the medal were revoked by an Act of Congress of June 3, 1916. I believe most of the medals revoked were from Civil War awards. Of the 1,521 Civil War awards, 24 were earned by African Americans 8 were sailors and 16 soldiers.

In our Nations history of this award, as of February 2000, 3,430 Medals of Honor have been awarded, nineteen of these were awarded as a second award to men who had already received a previous Medal of Honor. In 1917 the laws governing award of this medal were again reviewed, this review ended all double awards of the medal. The Medal of Honor may now be awarded only once to a recipient. I am not sure this law is still in effect, but I have not found any information to refute this fact. Anyone out there who knows better please let me know.

Unlike the British Victoria Cross and the French Legion d' Honneur, which can be and have been awarded to foreign nationals, the Medal of Honor cannot be awarded to anyone who is not a U.S. Citizen. While the medal has become more difficult to receive since the Civil War the esteem given to the recipients in any war place that person "above and beyond" in their call to duty. President Harry S. Truman said, "I would rather have that medal than be President of the United States."

One final comment regarding the Medal of Honor, because it is customarily bestowed by the President "in the name of the Congress", it is frequently, and erroneously, called the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Civil War Usage

To Close Ranks---This maneuver kept men together as much as possible after the ranks had been depleted, generally from enemy fire. Prevailing tactics assumed that massed men equaled massed fire power and only massed men could break through an opponent's line.

Holy Joe---Slang for a chaplain.

Horse Holder---In general, cavalry units fought, not on horseback, but dismounted, which meant that one out of every four horse soldiers held his own mount and those of his three comrades in the rear of the battle line. Such necessities reduced the fighting force of a cavalry unit by 25%. As an example Union General John Buford's horsemen, who opened the Battle of Gettysburg, with 2,700 men, had 675 out of the fight in order to hold their horses.

Horse Furniture---An inclusive term for the many pieces of gear needed with military horses.

March Quiz

Q.1 This Federal Division commander was furious when orders were received to move the Union Army from their positions on Malvern Hill to Harrison's Landing following the July 1, 1862 Battle of Malvern Hill, the last battle of the Seven Days Battles. This officer made this statement regarding the withdrawal, "the withdrawal could be motivated only by cowardice or treason." Can you name the Union officer who made this statement and who he was referring to?

Q.2 This question also relates to the Battle of Malvern Hill. As the Army of the Potomac was preparing to leave their positions on the hill not all the "Yankees" were happy about it. A ranking Federal officer, close to General McClellan, spent much of the night of July 1 trying to change McClellan's mind. He believed if the army could get some food and ammunition, the army should stay where it was or even begin to make up ground it had lost "to reap the full fruits of their labors", he was sure the army could get to Richmond. Name the Federal officer making the request to hold and fight?

Q.3 Jefferson Davis was named President of the Confederate States on February 9, 1861. When notified by telegram of his election, he was both surprised and somewhat disappointed. Why was Davis disappointed?

Miscellaneous Items

We have had some interest by members in providing information on upcoming reenactment events. This is a limited start perhaps we can do a better job regarding this request in the future as we gain additional sources of information. To avoid favoritism to any of the many enactment units, Federal or Confederate, we limit our information to the sites and dates of the upcoming programs.

April 26 & 27, 2003---Battle of Five Forks, location Livingston, Virginia.

May 17 & 18, 2003---Battle of New Market, location New Market, Virginia. This is the oldest reenactment event in the United States and one of the few held on the original battlefield.

April 24 & 25, 2003---Ridley Creek Park, Neshaminy, Penna. (Dave Valuska can provide, I believe, additional information on this event.)

If a member desires more information on these events bring it up at our Round Table meeting, one of the members may have information to help. We will work on this request to see if we can do better with future reenactment information.

At this point in our newsletter I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Ron Rhein for his kind words to me regarding my efforts in working and putting together our monthly Round Table Newsletter, at our February meeting. I also thank the membership for their applause and recognition at the meeting. It was very nice to know your feeling and was very much appreciated. Again, thank you all.

This may be a good time to remember the officers who represent our Board of Directors. Their efforts are not confined to a single evenings work but represent continued efforts to make the Round Table a very fine organization. Our President, Dave Valuska; Vice President, Ron Rhein; Treasure Arlan Christ; Membership Secretary, Pat Christ; Solicitor, Bob Grim; Preservation Chair, Tom Tate; Recording Secretary, Rich Kennedy; Member At Large, Dave Fox; Member Emeritus, Mike Gabriel; Newsletter Editor, Tony Reilly. Jack Gurney, while not a board member, can never be overlooked for his continued contributions. Our meetings, guest speakers, financial requirements, trip arrangements, dinner arrangements are a continuous effort by your board to make our meetings special. We are well into plans for our next campaign and look forward to the rest of this year's meetings and summer field trip. I'm sure all members agree the board deserves a vote of thanks and appreciation. We the members of the board also greatly appreciate the contributions of the membership who make the organization what it has become. Cooperation, participation, attendance and interest make the Round Table a worthwhile, enjoyable and educational organization.

March Meeting

Our March meeting will be held on **Tuesday March 11, 2003**. Our meeting time is 6:30 PM at The Inn at Moselem Springs. We request dinner reservations and meal selections be made by **Wednesday March 5th**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533**. Please make your reservations by our cutoff date and speak clearly when leaving a message for reservations and meal selection. Dinner selections for our March meeting will be **Quakertown Roast, Baked Manicotti and Baked Haddock**. Our meal price is \$15.00

Our program for the evening will be "Gettysburg the Commanders." Our speaker will be Mr. Hans Heinzl. Mr. Heinzl comes to us from Gettysburg where he is a Park Guide. Look forward to a good turnout for this meeting and to see everyone.

Tony Reilly---Newsletter Editor

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

April 2003

Round Table Business

Attendance for our March meeting was 78 members and guest. This was another fine turnout of members for our Round Table during this cold winter. Our business meeting was very short the only item of business was the summer field trip. Rich Kennedy addressed the membership regarding the trip and provided some information on the trip. Rich has provided the newsletter with a detailed description of the field trip and that information is attached to this newsletter as an addendum. I suggest all members review this addendum whether you plan to go on the trip or not for the addendum also provides some information on a possible trip to the Philadelphia area in the fall that could be very interesting. Since Rich's addendum tells all, there is no need to further review the field trip under Round Table Business.

Jack Gurney provided us with items from an 1860-1870 Naval Officer's gear. The items included a Captain's Beaver Chapeau, Gold Braid Epaulets, Sword Belt & Plate and an Officers Dress Sword. The dress sword was made by Joseph Stankey, Conduit Street, London, England.

Treasurer Arlan Christ gave this financial report. Current balance \$4,216.61, new income \$1,203.00, new expenses \$1,458.70 giving the Round Table a new balance of \$3,960.91 as of 3-11-03.

Arlan provided his print of the month "With a Rebel Yell." This print is the first of four limited edition prints in the Official Gods and Generals Collection. The artist is Mort Kunstler. Mr. Kunstler chose to focus on the legendary rebel yell, commenting that nothing on the Southern side of the Civil War experience personified for him the courage and commitment to duty by Southerners than the rebel yell. The print depicts a desperate moment of fighting at Second Manassas on August 29, 1862 that represented the courage and convictions of soldiers from both sides.

If any member or guest has an interest in purchasing any of the prints that Arlan provides for our review I'm sure he would be glad to provide information regarding there availability and cost.

Book Raffle / Preservation

Tom reports members raised our battlefield preservation fund by another \$109.00 to a new preservation balance of \$1,292.00. Paul Foust donated another book in memory of Peggy Reichardt titled *The Civil War in Depth, History in 3-D*.

Expanding on a comment made by Ron Rhein at our March meeting, Tom lists CWPT's most recent list of endangered battlefields: Bentonville, N.C.; Champion Hill, Ms.; Chancellorsville, Va.; Glorieta Pass, N.M.; Manassas, Va.; Mansfield, La.; Nashville, Tn.; Petersburg, Va.; Richmond, Ky.; Rocky Face Ridge, Ga.. In addition to these ten locations there is an at risk list that includes: Spotsylvania Court House, Va.; Stones River, Tn.; Wilson's Creek, Mo.; Port Hudson, La. And seven other lesser known locations.

Tom makes a request of the Round Table that we set a goal of \$1,500.00 this season for our preservation fund. With two more meetings to go this campaign we should be able to reach that goal so come with heavy pockets in April and May and buy some tickets and help put us over the top.

I believe a question was asked at our March meeting regarding the status of Chancellorsville and the proposed development on battlefield land. I can add this information to Tom's report regarding the rezoning of the Mullins Farm, a key part of the battlefield. The rezoning vote was postponed until March. As of this writing I have no results of the vote if it has taken place. Information from Chancellorsville indicated it was not possible on how to predict the outcome of the vote. However, the political situation in the county has improved in favor of protecting the battlefield area in question due to changes to commissioners who favor protection. This preservation effort has been a hot topic nationally. Major television networks and some 100 newspapers in the country have focused on the story in a favorable way. Stay tuned we may be winning.

Program Review

Our speaker for our March meeting was Mr. Hans Heinzl, Mr. Heinzl came to us from Gettysburg where he is a licensed battlefield guide. Hans is a graduate of Virginia Military Institute and did graduate work in history at Maryland University. He served as a combat infantryman in the United States Marines in World War II, seeing action on Guam and Iwo Jima. He was a Marine officer in combat during the Korean War.

Our speaker identified his topic as The Roots of Generalship at Gettysburg. I think it would also be fair to state that his talk could be defined as The Roots of Military Education and Military History. We can state here, without question, that Mr. Heinzl is well versed and proficient in these topics. As this is a review of his presentation I must offer all our readers an upfront apology as I doubt I can do justice to his outstanding presentation. However I shall try.

Mr. Heinzl introduced us to a number of key military people who we can believe had extraordinary and remarkable aptitudes in the art of war. It is this art of war or levels of warfare that our speaker desired to convey to us and the evolution of these levels of warfare to the effect they had on Lee and Meade at Gettysburg, and probably to more modern day wars. He began with Karl Von Clausewitz, a German military theoretician, who defined war as the "most brutal of cultural achievement." Clausewitz view was weapons of war change principals of war do not. He believed it was a proper and attainable objective for one army to annihilate the other. This however becomes difficult to do with the change in weapons, plus the increased mobility of armies. But he believed the principal remained the same he stated "try to fall upon the enemy at a point with force while keeping the rest of the enemy in uncertainty."

Mr. Heinzl then spoke of the Frenchman Sebastien Le Prestre de Vauban as the father of military engineering and science. Vauban designed the fortress theory, ramparts and the methods to bring about interlocking bands or fields of fire upon the enemy, the socket bayonet that slipped over the end of the rifle barrel and the French Frontier Fortress System that protected the Northeast frontier of France.

Frederick the Great of Prussia was the artist of the turning or flanking movements. He believed in strict training of military close order drill to bring about successful flanking movements in battle. He focused on precise movements the ability to maneuver and fire at the same time.

Hans then turned to Napoleon and defined him as the greatest military genius of all. His works and memoirs should be studied by all military leaders. He spoke of Baron Henri Jomini, a Swiss who served in the French Army under Napoleon as the man who was at the time the world's foremost military authority and interpreter of Napoleonic strategy and tactics.

Obviously the comments and views of these men is a brief, very brief, view of their contributions. We will take a look now at what Mr. Heinzel identified as the three levels of warfare. We can refer to them as the principles of war. First, the grand strategy of war is defined by a nations political goals and aims. Second, operations which are objectives that are defined, decisive and attainable. The assigned mission of the army or forces involved, troops and supplies available, the massing and maneuver of forces, all forces, to the best possible location on the battlefield to engage the enemy. This operational principal must assist in achieving the grand strategy of the war and operations can only be successful by our third principal of warfare, tactics. This principal is the movement of units on offense and defense with unity of command to achieve victory in the battle and the war. This is usually the battle as fought from division level downward.

Robert E. Lee's strategy was these three principles as he moved to concentrate at Gettysburg. He desired to create a military situation and benefit from it. The road system around Gettysburg and the access to that area through the Cashtown Pass gave him and his army the opportunity to have a way in and out of the battle area. At West Point Lee learned the art of war from the men we reviewed, by studying them and reading their works. Unfortunately at Gettysburg his opponent, George G. Meade, did the same. Meade also was a follower and greatly influenced by the teachings of Dennis Hart Mahan who taught at West Point. As Mr. Heinzel pointed out Mahan was Professor of Military and Civil Engineering, and of the Science of War. Mahan had a great influence on the leaders of the Mexican and Civil Wars. He preached a devotion of speed, mobility, surprise and boldness on the battlefield. His views and teachings were used by officers both North and South. Mahan was a graduate himself of West Point class of 1824, he finished first in a class of thirty one. Mahan was a disciple of the Frenchman Vauban and his art of defense. This art of defense aided Meade in creating his defenses at Gettysburg. This Union defensive position greatly supported by Henry Hunt's artillery was key to the Federal victory.

Mr. Heinzel stated that West Point made 2nd. Lieutenants, not generals, but we could say many West Point 2nd. Lieutenants became generals thanks to the teachings of the men who defined The Roots of Generalship. Our speaker's presentation was truly outstanding it would take a great deal more time and comments to do any degree of justice to it. I can only hope some of the information he presented has found its way into this review. Our Round Table extends our thanks and appreciation to Mr. Hans Heinzel for being our guest speaker at our March meeting.

Did You Know

William Clarke Quantrill was probably the best-known Confederate bushwhacker and guerilla fighter of the Civil War. He was born in the Northern town of Canal Dover, Ohio on July 31, 1837. While little is known of his early life he did teach school for several years from age 16 to 20. Unfortunately in his early twenties Quantrill honed his violent nature while living with thieves, murderers and brigands in Kansas. He lived in Lawrence, Kansas in 1859 and 1860 under the assumed name of Charley Hart. When war

came in 1861 Quantrill fought with the Confederate Army in Missouri, however, I do not believe he had any record of induction into the army. By Christmas 1861, the 24 year old Quantrill had organized a band of pro-confederate guerillas to fight the Union Army and pro-northern sympathizers. Because of the tactics of this band and their diabolical behavior Union authorities did not view them as a legitimate enemy command and branded them as outlaws. From Confederate quarters there were numerous attempts to disavow Quantrill and his actions. However, the guerilla organization did not see themselves as outlaws they believed they were members of the Confederate service and desired to have their raiders placed under the Partisan Ranger Law giving them an honor and similar status as that accorded to John S. Mosby and his men. This quest by Quantrill for his band was not granted by Confederate authorities. Again while no official record of induction seems to exist, evidence suggests that Quantrill himself was commissioned a Confederate Captain on August 15, 1862 and his men, approximately 150, mustered into the army in August 1862. There is also some information to suggest the fact that in November 1862 he went to Richmond and was given a Colonel's commission though he had hoped for more. However, this does not seem likely as Confederate officials were uneasy about Quantrill and his men. Confederate Army commanders questioned whether Quantrill was as dedicated to the Confederate cause as he was addicted to blood and booty. And, to a man, the Confederate Army officers abhorred Quantrill's brutal methods of fighting. But for all their concern, no Confederate authority moved to discipline Quantrill. What is more likely following his commission to Captain, Quantrill simply promoted himself ending his career as a Colonel.

The highpoint of Quantrill's career, if we can call it that, came on August 21, 1863 when he led a force of 450 raiders in the attack on Lawrence, Kansas. After meeting their "so-called" military objectives the town was looted and burned. Some 150 men, capable of carrying a weapon, were killed, no women or children were killed in this raid by Quantrill's orders. Quantrill led the attack on Lawrence, Kansas out of revenge, probably his own personal revenge, and got it. The slaughter at Lawrence was too much for many of the bushwhackers causing a fall out among them-selves. It must be stated that William Quantrill was not alone in his reign of murder, robbing and terror. Some of his well-known cohorts were George Todd, Bloody Bill Anderson, George Maddox, Cole and Jim Younger, Frank and Jesse James and Little Archie Clement. It can be stated that none of these men could be recommended as ideal neighbors.

Quantrill lived through the war, but on May 10, 1865 on his way to surrender his band and himself to the Louisville, Kentucky garrison Union commander he was caught and shot by Federal guerillas in Taylorsville, Kentucky. He lingered for a month paralyzed below the shoulders before dying on June 6, 1865. He was 27 years old at his death. A sensitive young school teacher, an outlaw to the Union, a free spirited hero to his supporters. Quantrill was each of these and in truth he was a notorious killer and probably insane. To this day he is still considered one of the most dangerous and despicable figures of the American Civil War.

At his death Quantrill left \$800 in gold, a portion to pay for his tombstone. The remaining funds, some \$500 were given to Kate Clark his mistress. Kate went to St. Louis with her inheritance and opened a house of ill repute, where she "reputedly" did very well.

Civil War Usage

Retrograde---Movement toward the rear or away from the enemy. Retrograde movements are not synonymous with retreat; they are movements to maneuver into better positions sometimes referred to as secondary positions.

Camp Fever---A reference to typhoid fever, which was usually contracted from contaminated water.

Freedman---(1) A former slave who had purchased his or her freedom or been freed by an owner.(2) A runaway slave who had escaped or been separated from an owner by the exigencies of war. These fugitive slaves were also called contrabands.

Frigate---A vessel whose size lay between that of a sloop of war and a ship of the line. Typically such ships carried twenty-eight to forty-four guns, which were placed in batteries on the main and spar decks.

April Quiz

Q.1 This Federal officer made this statement after receiving and protesting General Orders No.194 from the Union War Department. "As a soldier, I obey it, and to the utmost of my ability will execute it." Can you identify this Union officer and briefly the contents of the General Orders?

Q.2 An unknown clerk in the Confederate Naval Department in Richmond, Virginia is believed to have hatched a seemingly sensible scheme that would assist the Confederate Navy in preventing the loss of their warships and raiders because they had difficulty detecting the approach of Federal Navy warships. He stated "Federal warships have a tremendous advantage." What was this Federal advantage and what was the naval clerk's simple scheme to offset this advantage?

Q.3 It is generally accepted that Captain Henry Wirtz, Confederate Army, commandant of Andersonville Prison, was the only man executed by the Federal government after the war for crimes committed during the war. However, there was another man, now largely forgotten, who was also executed for war crimes. Can you name this individual?

Miscellaneous Items

Listed here are some upcoming items on reenactments. Details are limited.

April 24-25---Ridley Creek Park, Neshaminy, Pa. (Dave Valuska mentioned this at our March meeting.)

April 26-27---Battle of Five Forks, location Livingston, Virginia

May 17-18---Battle of New Market, location New Market, Virginia

June 7-8--- Battle of Slash Church, also known as Lebanon Church, location Meadow Farm Park, Richmond, Virginia. Slash Church is located approximately eight miles north of the Mechanicsville battlefield.

I received a letter from member Russell Angstadt regarding the following reenactment. "Firing up 1863 History-a Civil War Bridge Burning." A group called the Rivertownes, Pa. USA plans to commemorate on June 28, 2003 the burning of a covered bridge that once spanned the Susquehanna River. The old stone abutments and piers of the span still stand next to the current Columbia-Wrightsville Bridge which carries traffic on PA Route 462 between Lancaster and York counties. The bridge was burned 140 years ago when a brigade of Confederate forces under command of General John B. Gordon came east after securing the area around York. The Confederates hoped to secure the bridge for crossing to areas beyond the bridge. Union troops under fire began to cross the bridge followed by the Confederate forces, to stop the enemy the Union troops

attempted to blow up one span of the bridge behind them instead the entire bridge was destroyed as well as a lumber yard and some homes in Wrightsville. The commemoration committee plans a reenactment of the bridge burning which should prove interesting the fires will be set early in the evening and hopefully will burn until midnight.

If you have an interest in this event contact Russ for any additional information.

April Meeting

Our April meeting will be held on **Tuesday April 8, 2003**. Our meeting time is 6:30 PM at The Inn at Moselem Springs. We request dinner reservations and meal selections be made by **Wednesday April 2nd**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533**. Please make your dinner reservations by the cutoff date and speak clearly when leaving a message. Our dinner selections for April's meeting are **Baked Ham, Baked Ziti and Grilled Salmon**. Our meal price is \$15.00.

Our program for our April meeting will be a presentation by Dr. Christian Keller a Professor at Dickinson College. Dr. Keller will speak on German Americans in the Civil War and to a somewhat lesser degree the Pennsylvania Dutch in the Civil War. Dr. Keller and our Dr. Valuska are presently working together on a book regarding this same subject. Our speaker for our last meeting of this our 6th. campaign will be Mr. Troy Harmon. Subject to be announced in our next newsletter.

Final Thought

Member Bob Davis provided this item to me, as our country takes arms to fight a war, we thought it may have some appropriate words. It speaks to our flag.

Have you ever wondered why the flag of the United States of America is folded 13 times when it is lowered or when it is folded during a Veteran's burial service. Here is the meaning of each of those folds: The first fold is a symbol of life. The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the Veterans who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world. The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, as American's trusting in God we turn to him in times of peace and war. The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, may she always be right, but our country, right or wrong. The sixth fold is where our hearts lie, as we pledge allegiance to our flag as one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces. The eighth fold is a tribute to mothers to honor them on Mother's Day. The ninth fold honors womanhood and women who have helped to mold and make this country great. The tenth fold honors father's who also have given their sons and daughters for the defense of our country. The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies in their eyes, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The final fold completes the folding of the flag with the stars facing uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust." The folded and tucked in flag takes on the appearance of a cocked hat reminding us of the soldiers and sailors who served our country from the days of General Washington to the present time. This flag should remind us of the rights, privileges and freedoms we all enjoy today by those, military or civilian, who may have given the ultimate sacrifice for all of us by honoring our flag and our country. The next time you see a flag ceremony honoring someone keep in mind all the important reasons in the folding of the American flag.

Tony Reilly---Newsletter Editor

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

May 2003

Round Table Business

Our April meeting was attended by 66 members and guest. President Dave Valuska opened our business meeting with a discussion on nominations for officers for next year's Round Table campaign starting in September, 2003. Anyone interested please let it be known at our next meeting. Any member can apply and run for any of our officer and director positions. Nominations and election of officers will be an important business issue at our May meeting.

Rich Kennedy provided an update on our coming June field trip. His attachment to last month's newsletter was reviewed. In additional discussions with Rich he advised the newsletter that there will be no need to advertise in the Reading or Allentown newspapers. He states we should have a full bus of "happy people" bound for Gettysburg in June. However, if anyone still has an interest in the trip please contact Rich as soon as possible in case an opening thru a cancellation takes place. This is always a possibility. At this time we will probably limit the bus pickup point to Kutztown only. Any change in this arrangement Rich will notify those members going on the trip. Rich will mail final details regarding the field trip about two weeks prior to departure. As Rich states his operative word for members is always "communication" if you need to contact him call at 610-779-6923 or e-mail Kenwyckel@aol.com. As of this writing fellow member Barry Adams is still on line to be our battlefield guide and commentator and our trip dates remain June 21 and 22.

Rich also notified the newsletter that there was an overwhelming response to the Philadelphia day trip survey. This response will push efforts forward with Dr. Waskie to see what dates would be available and probable trip cost. We would be looking for something in mid-October this year. Rich hopes to provide definitive information to the members on this trip by late July or early August, 2003. Dr. Waskie asked Rich to pass along to the Round Table his Civil War web forum. Here noted is the web address, CivilWarPhila@Listserv.Temple.edu, give it a try see what you might find.

Dave Valuska and Tom Tate indicated an important item to be determined at our May meeting will be our annual distribution of preservation funds toward battlefield preservation. Any member with an interest can make a recommendation at our May meeting. Generally one of the preservation gifts goes to the site of our summer field trip. Come prepared to present your views and supporting comments at our May meeting regarding this important issue. Remember not only the money we have in our preservation fund but money in the general fund can be made available for preservation gifts if the membership so desires.

Arlan Christ presented the following treasurer's report, a present balance of \$3,960.91, new income \$1,264.00, new expenses \$1,310.09 providing a new balance of \$3,914.82.

Jack Gurney's presentation included an 1858 cartridge box, a buckle, belt, capbox, bayonet and scabbard all carried by Corporal Samuel W. Hill, Company F, 155th Pennsylvania Volunteers. Jack also had an artillery fuses pouch, carrying two packs of five fuses each. The fuses were made at the Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Again and again and again our thanks to Jack for all his efforts to bring these many items of interest to each of our meetings.

Book Raffle / Preservation

Tom Tate reports the Round Table members purchased 124 raffle tickets at the April meeting. This brings our preservation fund to \$1,416.00 we should be in good shape to meet our goal of \$1,500.00 by the end of the season. Next month we will raffle more than the usual number of items including: a package of seven videos on Civil War battles donated to us by Bob Mulligan. Also in the raffle is a book donated by Paul Foust in memory of Peggy Reichardt, *Civil War Battlefields Then and Now*.

One young lady in attendance at our April meeting asked about the raffle and where the money went. Tom stated he was pleased to tell her that every raffle dollar goes to preservation of Civil War battlefields, except for the cost of some books we purchase for the raffle. Because of member donations of books that cost is kept to a minimum.

Tom also request members come to the May meeting prepared to discuss where we will donate our preservation funds for this year. He mentions Kernstown, and their loan for the Grim Farm, the newly formed Richmond Battlefield Association and their efforts in the Richmond area and the worthy preservation group CWPT (Civil War Preservation Trust).

President Valuska asked the question at the April meeting of how much we have donated so far since our Round Table beginning. Tom reviewed this issue and here advises we have contributed \$5,840.00 to a variety of preservation groups since our founding. With an average membership of 110 that's well over \$50.00 per capita. Good work by all members of the Round Table.

Much of the success of our preservation program goes to Tom as Dr. Valuska pointed out at the April meeting. He obtains the books, brings them to meetings, sells tickets, runs the raffle and is greatly involved in the Round Table organization. I am quite sure his wife Marilyn provides him with a great deal of assistance in his Round Table efforts. A tip of the hat and a pat on back to both Tom and Marilyn for their great work for our Round Table. Thank you both!

One last preservation item I understand that the Chancellorsville rezoning vote was held and was favorable to the protection of the battlefield. This is good news, when and if additional information is available I will provide it to you in the newsletter.

Program Review

At our April meeting The First Defenders welcomed Assistant Professor of History at Dickinson College Dr. Christian Keller who was our featured speaker for this meeting. Dr. Keller's topic was German Americans in the Civil War. However, he focused on the German Americans during the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg. His focus and views came from the writings he and our President Dr. David Valuska are presently working on together, a book on German Americans and the Pennsylvania Dutch soldiers in the Civil War. We can also state that additional focus by Dr. Keller was placed on the 11th Corps of the Army of the Potomac during his presentation.

Dr. Keller noted that German Americans came to reside in a number of states in the Union and were not confined to a single state. The majority of these immigrants came to America in the 1840s.' By 1860 nearly a third of the North's male population was foreign-born, and almost one in every four Union soldiers was a first-generation American. This included some 216,000 German American men in the Union armies. Approximately 109 Federal infantry and artillery units were populated with some German American troops. New York and Ohio furnished 16 regiments that were almost totally German American in their make-up. In his presentation Dr. Keller focused on four Pennsylvania regiments from our state the 27th, 73rd, 74th and the 75th all of the 11th Corps. He also spoke of the 98th regiment of the 6th Corps as heavily populated with German American men.

Our speaker provided some valued comments that we can address at this time. He pointed out that there was a difference between German Americans and the Pennsylvania Dutch. The Pennsylvania Dutch were well settled in America before the arrival of the Germans in the 1840s.' Most of the Dutch spoke English, they had inter-married to some degree and their reputation as soldiers appears to have been very good. They were good fighters, notably the 151st and 153rd regiments at Gettysburg. Dr. Keller pointed out the German Americans and the Pennsylvania Dutch did not get along with each other and that the German American soldiers generally always spoke German.

The German American soldiers who fought with the 11th Corps received the unfortunate identity of the "damn Dutch." History has not been kind to the 11th Corps their foreign-born soldiers were held in low esteem by their native-born comrades in arms. Anglo-American opinion and the opinion of many officers did little to enhance the esteem of the "damn Dutch." The 11th Corps suffered greatly from their performance at Chancellorsville and then the July 1 retreat at Gettysburg. One can argue this point but the men of the 11th Corps were good soldiers, for the most part tried and veteran troops. The disaster at Chancellorsville may have been more the problem of poor leadership by their commanders than poor fighting by the soldiers. At Gettysburg, under the same command, they fought on July 1 and 2. The day before these battles the 11th Corps reported 10,576 officers and men for duty, their losses at Gettysburg were 3,801 men killed, wounded, captured and missing this following the loss of 2,407 men at Chancellorsville. Was this poor soldiering of the so-called "cowardly Dutchman", poor leadership or just plain bad luck. Whatever one believes it was a high price to pay in human suffering and life. At Gettysburg on July 1, the 27th, 73rd, 74th and 75th regiments fought as hard as any other regiments and as well as could be expected based on the battle action that took place on the afternoon of July 1. It was elements of the 11th Corps that retreated, not just the German American troops.

Dr. Keller spoke of the views of the northern press regarding the "damn Dutch." Most Anglo-American comments were not favorable, German language newspapers were understandably favorable. However, some papers, the New York Times, New York Herald and the Cleveland Plain Dealer were generous in their support of the 11th Corps work. Sadly the main view or opinion of German American troops, as "cowardly Dutchmen", came from Anglo-American soldiers. This view was primarily in the eastern theater, the western armies did not have this disturbing view of German American soldiers.

After Gettysburg there were cries to break up the 11th Corps led by Major General Oliver Howard, the 11th Corps commander, who supported and recommended the breakup. In addition some troops within the corps wanted out of the corps. In September 1863 the 11th and 12th Corps were sent to Tennessee and in April 1864 became the newly formed 20th Corps in the western theater. This ended the Civil War history of the 11th Corps and its sad and unfortunate identity as the "damn Dutch." As with any of our program reviews newsletter space is a consideration. This causes many of our speaker's details to be passed over, in this review that fact remains in evidence. However, we can state that Dr. Keller provided to us an interesting view of the difficulties experienced by German American men to serve their new country with honor and dignity. Whatever one's view may be of the German American soldier in the American Civil War we must all remember they fought and died for their adopted country. This in itself should not have identified them as the "Damn Dutch."

Our Round Table extends our thanks and appreciation to Dr. Christian Keller for his informative and excellent presentation at our April meeting.

Did You Know

Throughout the history of the American military, especially in our recent memory, celebrated units of fighting forces have been identified as Rangers, Green Berets, Special Forces and the well known Navy Seals. During the Civil War, the Union had its own unique force, two regiments of United States Sharpshooters. These two regiments, the 1st and 2nd United States Sharpshooters, were recognized by their green uniforms and were much renowned and publicized in their time, though almost completely forgotten today.

The units were founded and established by Hiram Berdan, one of the country's leading marksmen, following the firing on Fort Sumter, Berdan's plan was to form a regiment that would be one of a kind by enlisting the country's best marksmen. Announcements were circulated inviting men to apply as members in the regiment. There was one major requirement; no man would be accepted who could not put ten bullets in succession, firing as fast as possible, within five inches from the center of a target at a distance of six hundred feet (200 yards) firing from a rest position or three hundred feet (100 yards) firing at an off-hand position. Two regiments were eventually filled, each regiment had ten companies with 101 officers and men per company, of interest only men from the following states qualified; New York, Michigan Vermont, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Maine.

During the fall and winter of 1861-1862 the Sharpshooters were a popular attraction in their Washington training camp putting on daily demonstrations of their shooting skill, as target shooting was a popular sport. In addition, by their dress they were known far and wide, and soon acquired the name of "Green Coats." When fully uniformed and equipped they made a handsome appearance, more so than regular army units. However, the Sharpshooters were organized and trained to fight. Their first action was a small skirmish against enemy foragers, at Lewinville, Virginia on the 27th of September 1861. From then on they claimed participation in sixty five actions and battles, especially distinguishing themselves at South Mountain, Chancellorsville and at Gettysburg. While these two regiments were designated as a brigade they seldom fought as such, constantly scattered as detached companies. Usually employed as skirmishers, on picket duty and also on sniping details, much to Berdan's disappointment. These assignments led to mounting losses during their service career. These two regiments were in a sense modern

infantry, high morale, well trained they were excellent troops. Very few of them ever became prisoners of war. Together these two regiments could boast that they killed more Confederate soldiers than any other two regiments in the Union Army.

The First Regiment was mustered out of service in August, 1864, due to enlistments expiring. The Second Regiment in February, 1865 for the same reason. Men whose enlistments were not up were sent to regiments of their respective states. Hiram Berdan resigned his commission on January 2, 1864. He was a crack marksman but viewed as unfit for command. He was also considered by many to be cowardly, not available at some of the more serious fights of the Sharpshooters.

A final comment should be made that the word "sharpshooter" derives from the use of the Sharps rifle this is not true. While the two regiments used the Sharps rifle from May and June 1862, the word "sharpshooter" existed in America decades before the Sharps rifle was invented; indeed even before the inventor of the rifle was born. It may well be fair for us today to include the Civil War Sharpshooter units in the same class of American Special Forces units as other well known celebrated organizations. I believe by their record of service and accomplishment they deserve this honor.

Civil War Usage

Adjutant---Derived from a latin term meaning "to assist," this title was applied to a staff officer by both Gray and Blue. The communication of orders was high on the list of an adjutant's responsibilities. An adjutant-general often published orders in the name of his commander.

Commodore---A naval officer whose rank was above a captain and below a rear admiral, roughly equivalent to a brigadier general.

Sauerkraut---A nickname for a German immigrant in the Union Army. Many of these men spoke little English and responded only to German language commands.

Route Step---Regulations indicated that this pace equal 110 steps per minute. In practice it was almost impossible to maintain this rate. As a result, route step came to mean rapid and at times uncoordinated marching.

Hospital Bullet---Oral tradition suggests that, lacking anesthesia, many patients bit a bullet during amputations and other battlefield surgeries.

May Quiz

Q.1 On July 4, 1863 General George G. Meade issued Orders No. 68 congratulating his army on their performance at Gettysburg. Meade congratulated the Army of the Potomac "for driving the invaders from our soil." On July 6, 1863 President Lincoln wrote Major General Henry Halleck that on hearing the content of Orders No. 68 he was a good deal dissatisfied with Meade's statement. Part of Lincoln's words to Halleck were "my God is that all?" Can you explain President Lincoln's reason for being dissatisfied?

Q.2 On July 2, 1863, at Gettysburg, the Third Brigade, Third Division, 2nd Corps of the Army of the Potomac, commanded by Colonel George L. Willard was posted on Cemetery Ridge in the area of Ziegler's Grove. This brigade had four New York regiments: the 39th, 111th, 125th and 126th with a combined strength of 1,600 officers and men. These four regiments had an unfortunate past and were butts of some derision and scorn by fellow Union regiments for an action they participated in ten months prior to Gettysburg. These New York regiments still smarted under the stigma of the past action. What was the reason for this brigade's past problems?

Q.3 These two statements were made by two Confederate officers as testimonials to Confederate troops and their efforts during the 2nd day of battle at Gettysburg. (1) "The best three hours' fighting ever done by any troops on any battlefield." (2) "Not only contests with Pickett's charge the palm of being the most brilliant and desperate part of the whole battle of Gettysburg, but that it is not excelled in these qualities by any record of our war." Who made each statement and regarding what action during the battle?

May Meeting

Our May meeting will be held on **Tuesday May 13, 2003**. Our meeting time is 6:30 pm at The Inn at Moselem Springs. We request dinner reservations and meal selections be made by **Wednesday May 7th**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533**. Please make your reservations by our cutoff date. Our dinner selections for May's meeting will be **Shepherd's Pie, Baked Manicotti and Baked Haddock**. Our meal price is \$15.00.

Our speaker for the May meeting will be Mr. Troy Harmon, Chief National Park Guide at Gettysburg. Mr. Harmon's topic will be "Lee's Real Plan at Gettysburg." This is our final meeting of our sixth campaign we have a fine speaker and an excellent topic let's close out a great year with a great turnout. Look forward to seeing you all at our May meeting.

Final Item

Just when I thought the newsletter was completed a final item needs to be added to the newsletter. A number of members requested information on the availability of Round Table shirts and hats. Our chief of supply, Mike Gabriel, provides this information. A number of First Defender blue polo shirts and hats are still available and can be purchased at the May meeting. This would be great for new members and those going on the Gettysburg trip in June.

There are (6) medium and (1) large size shirts available for sale at a price of \$25.00 each. There are around (30) blue baseball-style hats remaining at a price of \$7.00 per hat. If interested our May meeting is the time to buy.

Tony Reilly---Newsletter Editor