

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2016, the 20th Campaign



www.firstdefenderscwrts.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By mid-August it becomes hot, very hot and humid, in east central Pennsylvania. In the evening, though, as I look out across the farmland I can see deer beginning to wander and fireflies glow hither and yon. Crops of corn, wheat and soybeans are growing full and green, soon to reach maturity. Though shortening days hearken the coming colors of autumn and eventual chill of winter, I am still buoyant for I know it is time to see old friends again and to meet new ones. It is time for the First Defenders Civil War Round Table once more!

And so it begins. Our 20th Anniversary Campaign! Nineteen times before have we gathered together to learn from historians, writers, re-enactors and, yes, each other to expand our knowledge and understanding of the defining event of this nation's comparatively brief history: the Civil War.

There are only a few "enlistees" who flocked to the colors of those first campaigns and who are still with us, but the stories and memories they can share from the early years about the programs, the trips and the people make newer "recruits" with less time in the ranks feel like we are "veterans," too. The spirit of those who have passed here before remains with us today.

Refreshed from our summer hiatus, we look forward to an outstanding, successful campaign from now until next May with some fresh faces like Edward Bonekemper, Paul Kahan and Edward Alexander, some folks who are well-known but new to us such as Steve French and Scott Mingus, our own comrades Sherri Stull and Bob Shuman, and, of course, old friends like Jeff Wert and Ed Bearss who we will welcome back once more.

It's time! Welcome to everyone...old friends and new... as we open our 20th Campaign!

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The Board of the First Defenders CWRT met on July 28, 2016, to discuss the upcoming campaign. Items for discussion will be shared with the membership during the September meeting. Please see Linda Zeiber, Recording Secretary, if you would like to have the minutes from the meeting.

Membership

It's time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2016-2017. Please fill out the membership form found on the website, and return it with your check as soon as possible. The deadline for payment is October 11, 2016. If you plan to pay your dues in person at the September or October meeting, please be sure to fill out **the renewal form** and **bring it along** with your payment.

Preservation/Book Raffle

Preservation Chair Gary Hertzog reported having an adequate supply of books for upcoming book raffles. Considering all leverages, the round table contributed \$16,300.00 to preservation last season.

Preservation Corner

Hard to believe in September we are starting our 20th Campaign Season as a round table. I wish to take this opportunity to first, thank all of you who supported our Preservation efforts. I am pleased to announce during the 19th Campaign Season we donated \$1500 and with matching grants from the Civil War Trust our Total Contributions came to \$16,300. In addition, the money we donated to the Trust went to a variety of different battlefields that involved the Eastern Theatre, the Western Theatre, the Trans-Mississippi, and farther West in Colorado and Oklahoma.

Included in the \$16,300 is a \$200 donation for the Conservancy that is helping to preserve all of the PA Flags that were from the Civil War. This is a very important project and the work they have done in preserving the flags with what resources they have available is pretty amazing. The flags themselves tell an important story of the bravery of the men who fought under these banners and the men who carried them.

I would like to once again thank Kathy Kennedy for the years she ran the book raffle. Her dedication and efforts in selling tickets at each meeting also, helped us in raising the money we have been able to raise and donate. Starting in September Gary Hertzog will be the new person who will be running the book raffle. Please, take this opportunity to thank Gary for volunteering and continue to support the raffle by buying tickets. I am really looking forward to working together with Gary to continue our preservation efforts.

Thanks everyone for a very successful Campaign Season. I hope everyone had a great summer and am looking forward to seeing you in September.

Until next time!

Mark Quattroch

Name Tags

It is the beginning of a brand-new season and once again we are going to be taking orders for round table name tags. Anyone wishing to order a round table name tag please, fill out the order form located on the round table web site on the same page as the enlistment form. **Please, include your e-mail address if you have one and a telephone number. Also, please print your name.** Like the previous order, we will not include titles.

The **deadline** for submitting orders will be the **October round table meeting** after which, I will be submitting our order to Weikel Sportswear. **We will not be collecting money** until the order is completed at which time I will be letting those who ordered a tag know how much they owe.

Thanks everyone and looking forward to seeing everyone at our September meeting.

Mark Quattro

In Memoriam

On May 31, 2016, member Dennis Yeager passed away unexpectedly. He was 67 years old and had resided in Leesport. Dennis was a proud and enthusiastic member of the First Defenders. We are fortunate to have been with Dennis at our May meeting. He will be sorely missed.

Save the Date for AAP

Don Stripling has announced October 27, 2016, as the next work day at Gettysburg for our Adopt-A-Position endeavors. If you can spend the day working on monuments, contact Don or Barb Shafer for more information. Listen for announcements at the September and October meetings regarding AAP.

NPS Announces Centennial Ball

The National Park Service and Gettysburg Foundation are sponsoring a night of live music and dancing to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service on August 26, 2016, from 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Proceeds benefit Antietam, Gettysburg, Harpers Ferry, and Monocacy National Parks.

Music is provided by Philadelphia Brigade Band; the dancing is led by the Victorian Dance Ensemble. There will be a cash bar, refreshments, and a Civil War art exhibit. Period dress is welcome but not required.

Reserve your tickets at www.gettysburgfoundation.org or call 877-874-2478 for tickets or additional information. Couples: \$55, Single: \$30, Youth: \$15.

Reprinted from the Facebook page of the Hamburg Historical Society--



Did you know a Hamburg native forever watches over the battlefield at Gettysburg near the "high watermark" of Pickett's infamous charge? Or at least a statue of this Hamburg native, Private Joseph Lindemuth, posed at the ready, looks out over a now peaceful, hallowed ground.

Our #tbt for this week takes us to Gettysburg as the commemoration of the pivotal battle of Civil War begins tomorrow July 1 and continues through July 3. In the summer of 1863, all roads would lead to this small town just miles from the Maryland border. The clash of the Union and Confederate armies (approximately 165,000 soldiers combined) over three days would yield a Union victory and nearly 51,000 casualties (killed, wounded, captured or missing).

The Hamburg area was well represented at the battle. Men from our area volunteered to serve in many units but the main three at Gettysburg were the PA 151st Volunteer Infantry Company H, the PA 96th Volunteer Infantry Company G, and the 1st PA Volunteer Cavalry. Dozens of veterans who fought at Gettysburg are buried in the Hamburg area.

Private Lindemuth was a member of the 1st PA Volunteer Cavalry. His unit was held in reserve behind Cemetery Ridge, ready to counterattack if the Confederates broke through the Union line. The position of the monument on Hancock Avenue, near 'the Angle', marks the location of the unit. Private Lindemuth, fully equipped and kneeling down on one knee, posed as the model for his unit's memorial to its men. It was dedicated on September 2, 1890 and cost \$1500. Private Lindemuth is buried in Auburn.

I hope you will take a trip to Gettysburg and say hi to Joseph. But you may want to wait till the fall or spring to avoid the crush of tourists (all roads still do converge in Gettysburg in the summer it seems). It is one of my favorite places.

September Program: Author & Historian: Ed Alexander

The Most Brilliant and Successful Affair: The Battle of Rappahannock Station



On November 7, 1863, two brigades of the Union Sixth Corps defied conventional tactics during their frontal bayonet charge against a like number of Confederates who protected a critical bridgehead on the Rappahannock River. Join Edward Alexander as he discusses the terrain and conditions that produced a Federal victory in this dramatic, yet overlooked engagement in the Virginia Autumn Campaign after Gettysburg.

Edward Alexander is a park ranger and historian at Pamplin Historical Park in Petersburg, Virginia, site of another successful Sixth Corps frontal assault on April 2, 1865. He has recently written *Dawn of Victory: Breakthrough at Petersburg*, about this latter engagement. Edward is an editor and contributor for *Emerging Civil War*. He currently resides in Richmond, Virginia.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, September 13, 2016 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for September include: Chicken Parmesan, Smoked Pork Chops, Butter Crumb Flounder with scampi sauce, or StirFry Vegetable Symphony with White Rice. Starch, Vegetables, salad, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon Friday, September 9, 2016, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

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

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

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



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**FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2016-2017**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State _____

Phone: _____

E-mail _____

Annual Membership fee of **\$25 is due by October 11, 2016.**

Please make the check payable to **The First Defenders CWRT** and mail to:

David Sweigert
2906 Curtis Road
West Lawn, PA 19609