

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2017

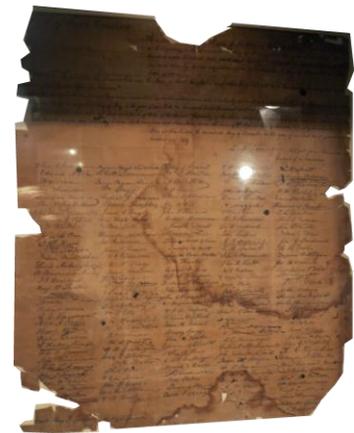


www.firstdefenderscwrts.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

COLUMBIA, S.C.: It occurs to me that throughout the history of the United States...indeed, world history...men have come together to make monumental decisions. Often, these are reduced to a piece of paper...the Magna Charta, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution to name just a few. There can be a great deal of passion surrounding the genesis of such efforts, and it is interesting to contemplate the thoughts that must have been swirling through participants' minds. Am I doing the right thing? What will this mean to my family and friends? How will history see this?

South Carolinians likely knew they were taking a mighty big step when they voted in December of 1860 to secede from the Union. Looking at an original copy of the secession ordinance (see photo, right) here in Columbia, my thoughts turned to what those men were thinking when they put pen to paper to sign that document. Could they fully understand the step they were taking? If they knew three-quarter million men would die in the next five years would they still have signed it? Was it possible to even remotely contemplate 150 years into the future of the nation they thought was being created? What hath man wrought?



Over the past few years, we have often heard about "executive orders." President Obama made frequent use of such orders to carry out his agenda, and the past week has suggested President Trump will not be, indeed is not, adverse to using his pen for similar purpose. Dependant upon one's view of the subject of such executive orders seems to be a reflection on their propriety and whether the signer has exceeded his authority.

Abraham Lincoln signed what may have been one of the earliest executive orders, the Emancipation Proclamation. Of questionable legal standing, Lincoln regarded it as a war measure that fell within his purview as commander-in-chief during a time of rebellion. Yet he also recognized the gravity of his action when he noted, "If my name ever goes into history it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it." At a time when our country is divided to an extent not seen in more than 150 years, one can only hope modern leaders carefully consider how important their signature can be not only now, but to generations yet unborn.

For the Glory,

Craig

Please note: Because of the cancellation of the January 2017 meeting of the Round Table, there is no new business to report. Refer to the January newsletter for the most recent news.

From Mark Quattrock--

Name Tags

Anyone who ordered a name tag, please note that the cost is \$7.70 per tag. Please bring either a check or money order made payable to Mark Quattrock to the February meeting.

Polo Shirts

We are now taking orders for polo shirts with the 20th anniversary logo on them. We are also in the process of adding an order form to the web site. Anyone wishing to order a shirt please, complete the order form and e-mail it to me at mquattrock@outlook.com or bring it to the round table meeting. We will be taking orders until the March meeting after which we will submit everything to Weikel Sportswear. We will also start collecting money at the March meeting.

Mark

February Program

Simon Cameron: Amiable Scoundrel

Simon Cameron rose to become the undisputed political boss of Pennsylvania. In delivering the Keystone State to Abraham Lincoln in 1860, repayment of the political debt led to his appointment as secretary of war. Cameron was one of the nineteenth century's most prominent political figures; however, he left in his wake a series of questionable political and business dealings and, at the age of eighty, even a sex scandal.



Author Paul Kahan will bring this interesting character to life as he reviews the life and times of an era where a man like Cameron could seize control and exert real authority over a successful, well-oiled political machine. A key figure in Union military strategy during the Civil War's crucial first year, Cameron would eventually be sent into a forced resignation. Legend says he was corruption personified, yet no evidence has ever been presented to prove that Cameron was corrupt.

Join us to learn more about Simon Cameron: Amiable Scoundrel.

*Paul Kahan earned a Ph.D. in U.S. history from Temple University where he worked with William W. Cutler, III. Prior to that, Dr. Kahan earned his M.A. in Modern American History & Literature from Drew University and B.A.s in history and English (with minors in medieval/Renaissance studies and music) from Alfred University. In 2008, Dr. Kahan published his first book, *Eastern State Penitentiary: A History*. This book explores the penitentiary's history and is written for a popular audience. In February 2012, Peter Lang published Dr. Kahan's second book, *Seminary of Virtue: The Ideology and Practice of Inmate Reform at Eastern State Penitentiary, 1829-1971*. His third book, *The Homestead Strike: Labor, Violence, and American Industry*, was published by Routledge in late 2013.*

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, February 14, 2017 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for February include: Chicken Saltimbocca; Pork Tenderloin; Shrimp and Flounder Amaretto Almondine; or Cannelloni Florentine-crepe filled with brunoise of vegetable and spinach with bechamel sauce. Soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon Friday, February 10, 2017, 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.**

Speakers and Program Topics for 2017

3/14/2017	Steve French	McNeill's Rangers
4/11/2017	Ed Bearss	The First Defenders
5/9/2017	Ed Bonekamper	Myth of the Lost Cause

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