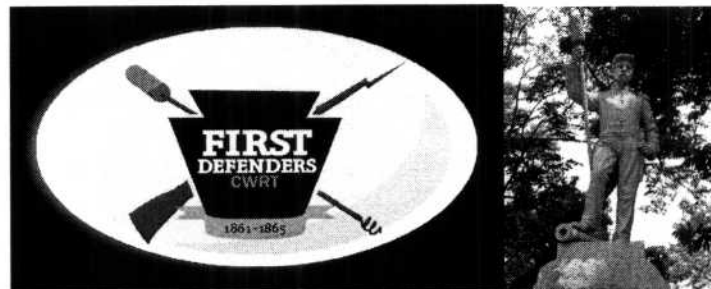


# The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2010



[www.firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwrt.us)

## From the President

Welcome back to a new campaign, our 14th. I hope you are having a joyous summer and that you return ready to support our round table. This November will mark the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's election, setting up a chain of events leading to the Civil War. The Program Committee has a terrific list of speakers lined up.

First, let me remind you that we have a new meeting place, Golden Oaks Golf Club. Golden Oaks is located on Route 662 approximately 1/4 mile east of the intersection of Routes 662 and 12 in Pricetown. Meeting time is still 6:30 PM. Our meetings will be held in the Pavilion which is above the Pro Shop. **SPECIAL NOTE: THEY HAVE AN ELEVATOR.** If you need help, please ask for assistance.

The other big news is that our website is now operational and may be found at [firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://firstdefenderscwrt.us) and is not case sensitive. Please go to the site and explore. You will find the following: Home Page, Program and Events Page, Newsletter, and Contacts. **EVERYONE WHO IS ABLE SHOULD USE THE 'PROGRAM AND EVENTS' PAGE TO REGISTER HIS/HER MEAL SELECTION.** This will save us time and expense on mailing the newsletter. Going forward after September, our plan is to only mail the newsletter to those who cannot access the website. We expect that all members who have internet access will use the website to register. Some of the other benefits of the site include a listing of the upcoming speakers, events, and field trip information. Errol Steffy has worked very hard getting the site functioning, and Linda Zeiber is helping us Dutchmen with our grammar and also will be posting the newsletter each month. If you have an interest in helping to maintain the site, please step forward. Your assistance will be welcome.

Next news, thanks to Dave Fox and Roger Cotterill for a successful field trip. Details of the trip are further on in this newsletter.

Last but not least, thanks to Arlan and Pat Christ, Rich Kennedy, and Mike Gabriel for their years of service to the round table and to Lori Border (Treasurer), Dave Unger (Membership) and Linda Zeiber (Recording Secretary) for stepping up to fill those positions. I also thank all of the board members for their efforts.

Joe Schaeffer

**\* SUPPORT THE BOOK RAFFLE; SUPPORT THE BOOK RAFFLE; SUPPORT THE BOOK RAFFLE..... YOU ARE SUPPORTING PRESERVATION WHEN YOU DO!\***

## **Round Table Business**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Arlan Christ presented his report at the May meeting. Our balance from April 13, 2010, was \$4,369.73. Receipts from the April meeting totaled \$2,070.00 bringing a new total of \$6,439.73. Expenses incurred totaled \$1,717.78 leaving a balance of \$4,721.95. The preservation fund had a total of \$714.00 prior to the May meeting.

### **Membership**

It's time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2010-2011. Please fill out the attached form, and return it with you check as soon as possible.

### **Preservation**

All of our members can be proud of their work for battlefield preservation this past season. It was a year unlike any other. As many of you will remember, we sent \$50.00 to 3rd Winchester Battlefield in October to take advantage of an \$8.80 to one leverage. That cut into our preservation fund but was worth it. Then in December we sent \$300.00 more dollars to CWPT for Appomattox Station to take advantage of the unbelievable leverage of \$115.00 to one. Yes, \$115.00 is not a misprint. And, again in April, we donated \$200.00 for preservation for our April speaker. In spite of our giving preservation money to worthwhile sites throughout the campaign year and the fact that our February meeting was canceled because of bad weather, we have \$923.00 in the preservation fund at the end of the May meeting.

The membership voted to spend \$800.00 of that amount to be in two payments of \$400.00 to two different sites. We will keep the remaining amount over the summer in case this coming fall there is another threatened site that needs money. We will be in a position to help. With the \$1,350.00 the membership voted to grant to preservation, the total amount that the First Defenders have granted to various sites is \$18,090.00. Congratulations! When you think that a good bit of it was leveraged, our contributions are praiseworthy indeed. Thanks to our May guests. They all made ticket purchases of \$5.00. And, finally, thanks to our members who just donate and refuse to take tickets.

As for books, we are in good shape. Our inventory is well-supplied as a result of donations. I will add some newly published works to the inventory over the summer. I hope that everyone had a good, pleasant summer and enjoyed your vacations.

Tom Tate

### **Election of Officers**

Each May our round table holds an election for the coming campaign. Several long-serving officers stepped down after completing their duties in May. Pat and Arlan Christ, membership chair and treasurer respectively, along with Richard Kennedy, board secretary, and Mike Gabriel, President, ended their service. Their time and efforts are deeply appreciated by all, and we give our deepest gratitude to each and every one of them. Newly-elected officers include Lori Border, treasurer, Dave Unger, membership, Linda Zeiber, recording secretary.

### **Harrisonburg Field Trip June 12-13, 2010**

Thirty-eight eager travelers gathered on the Lytle Hall parking lot at 7:00 a.m. on June 12th. Despite gray skies, all boarded the bus looking forward to a new adventure. By our first rest stop in West Virginia, the sun was shining. We arrived on schedule at the Hardesty-Higgins House Visitor Center in downtown Harrisonburg. After a boxed lunch and welcome by the visitor center volunteers, we drove to the Turner Ashby Monument where Phillip Whey, a reenactor with the 53rd VA and devotee of Turner Ashby, gave a talk and described the preserved area where Ashby was killed.

The next stop on our journey was Port Republic. In June of 1862, Jackson's army was bivouacked north of Port Republic. While there, he learned of the death of his cavalry commander, Gen. Ashby, on June 6th. He directed the Battle of Cross Keys on June 8th. On the same day, he, his staff, and wagon train barely escaped capture by a surprise Federal invasion of the village. On June 9th, he led his troops into the Battle of Port Republic, a victory that ended the Valley Campaign.

We had the opportunity of visiting the Port Republic Museum and then took a walking tour of the village where Confederate reenactors were involved in a sizeable

reenactment. The village is nestled between the North and South Rivers which join to create the South Fork of the Shenandoah River.

Saturday evening found us in the Hall of Valor Civil War Museum at the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park. We had a chance to inspect the museum's interesting collection and then had a catered dinner on the main floor of this lovely museum. We met Scott Harris, park historian and director of the museum. Following dinner, Scott made a presentation entitled "Embattled Eden" and conducted a question/answer session. In the spring of 1864, Gen. Grant wanted control of the Shenandoah Valley. He ordered Gen. Franz Sigel's army to secure the Valley and threaten Lee's left flank.

Gen. Breckinridge pulled all forces to repulse this threat. The VMI Cadet Corps marched from their classrooms in Lexington to join his army. They were put into the center of his line. They crossed the rain-soaked wheat field, the Field of Lost Shoes. They swept over the Federal position capturing a cannon. Sigel retreated leaving the field and the Valley to Breckinridge. Never before or since has an American cadet corps participated in a pitched battle.

The final stop of our trip was made at the New Market Battlefield and the 54th PA monument located in the town of New Market. After a buffet dinner in Martinsburg, West Virginia, we headed home. Of course, there are many other highlights, far too many to write about here. If you missed the trip, "you really needed to be there"! Roger Cotterill and Dave Fox outdid themselves putting the trip together. We owe them a debt of thanks. They missed no details. A great time was had by all.

--submitted by Linda Zeiber

#### **Adopt-A-Position Update**

Thank you to the members who worked in April at the 6th PA Cavalry monument in Gettysburg. We did not paint the back side of the fence at that time. Saturday, October 16th is the next work date for completion of this.

Please contact Don Stripling if you would like to work on this project. There will be a short meeting after the October RT meeting to discuss details of the work detail.

Barbara Shafer

#### **September Trivia**

1. Give the name of an incident in the Civil War involving a failed Union raid on the Confederate capital of Richmond on March 2, 1864.
2. In April 2010, a group of First Defender volunteers worked at a site in Gettysburg. What is the name of the monument that received this effort?
3. The Sixth PA Cavalry earned a reputation for being a highly-trained and reliable unit despite being armed initially with antiquated weapons, leaving their mark on key battlefields including Hanover Court House, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Brandy Station--where they conducted one of the most famous charges of the war--and Appomattox. What is the nickname of this regiment?

#### **Quotable**

"A superb regiment, noted for intelligence, bravery and stalwart service, the Sixth Pennsylvania Cavalry was an elite outfit, in the truest sense. That they were accepted and admired by the Regulars, alongside whom they served on many a hard-fought field, speaks volumes of the gallantry and dash of these sons of the Keystone State."--Brian C. Pohanka, historian and adviser for the motion pictures *Cold Mountain* and *Glory*

--submitted by Barbara Shafer

## **The Program for September: Eric Wittenberg Jeb Stuart's Controversial Ride to Gettysburg**

Eric Wittenberg is making his second presentation for the First Defenders. He spoke about John Buford at our May 1999 meeting. Eric is a well-known authority on Civil War cavalry. He has authored/co-authored several books and has written numerous magazine articles for venues such as *Blue & Gray*, *North & South*, and *The Gettysburg Magazine*. Eric's topic will be Jeb Stuart's controversial ride to Gettysburg. He has co-authored a book on this subject, *Plenty of Blame to Go Around*.

Mr. Wittenberg will be signing autographs for any books that you may have so be sure to bring them. He will be selling and signing his book, *Plenty of Blame to Go Around; Jeb Stuart's Controversial Ride to Gettysburg*. Please have cash!

Other books authored by Eric Wittenberg:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>Battle of Brandy Station</i>                                       | 9. <i>With Sheridan in the Final Campaign</i>     |
| 2. <i>Like a Meteor Blazing Brightly</i>                                 | 10. <i>Under Custer's Command</i>                 |
| 3. <i>One Continuous Fight</i>   | 11. <i>Protecting the Flank</i>                   |
| 4. <i>Rush's Lancers</i>   | 12. <i>Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions</i> |
| 5. <i>Glory Enough for All</i>   | 13. <i>We have It Damn Hard Out Here</i>          |
| 6. <i>Union Cavalry Comes of Age</i>                                     | 14. <i>One of Custer's Wolverines</i>             |
| 7. <i>Little Phil</i>  | 15. <i>At Custer's Side</i>                       |
| 8. <i>Battle of Monroe's Crossing and the Civil War's Final Campaign</i> |   |

To learn more about Eric Wittenberg, go to his website:  
[www.ericwittenberg.com/index.html](http://www.ericwittenberg.com/index.html).

### **Reservations for the September 14, 2010 Meeting:**

**New Dinner Reservation Procedures:** If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Meal choices: Vegetable Stir-Fry, Roast Beef Marsala, and Broiled Salmon.

**The price is \$22.00 for meals. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection at 610.478.1717 no later than Monday, September 6, 2010, which is also the deadline for online reservations. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. This new phone number is Joe Schaeffer's business phone so we are asking you to be considerate about not calling until after 5:00 p.m.**

\*NOTE: Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. 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.

### **2010-2011 Program Schedule**

September 14, 2010: Eric Wittenberg	Jeb Stuart's Controversial Ride to Gettysburg
October 12, 2010: Patrick Falci	Lee's Forgotten Gen. A P Hill at Gettysburg
November 9, 2010: Don Ernsberger	69th PA at the Wall at Gettysburg
December 14, 2010 Emily Lapisardi	Union Spy Elizabeth Van Lew
January 11, 2011: Round Table Discussion	South Justified in Secession
February 8, 2011: Tom Tate	Santa Anna's Spurs
March 8, 2011: Alan & Carla Messinger	Native Americans in the Civil War
April 12, 2011: Edwin C. Bearss	Chancellorsville
May 10, 2011: Joe Schaeffer	Commander William B. Cushing, The Assault on the Albemarle

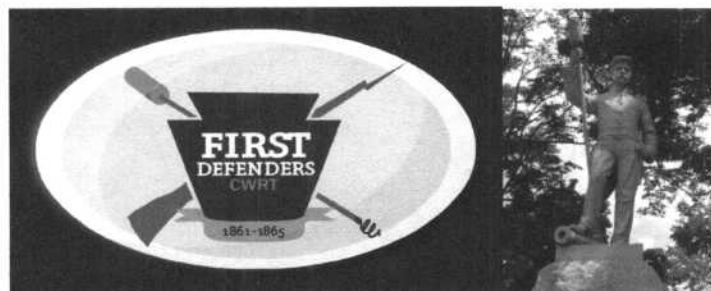
Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, [zeibers@comcast.net](mailto:zeibers@comcast.net)





# **The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter**

**October 2010**



**[www.firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwrt.us)**

## **From the President**

Many thanks to everyone who attended the September meeting. My impression after one meeting is that the new facility (Golden Oaks) suits us very well. The food was delicious, and the service was very good. If you have any concerns or comments, please address them to me or another board member.

Eric Wittenberg gave us a riveting talk on the much-debated shortcomings of JEB Stuart and the Confederate Cavalry in the days leading up to the Battle of Gettysburg. Hopefully, we will all open our minds to the possibility that there was "Plenty of Blame to Go Around." If you have not read his book by that same title, you definitely should. As with any subject, there is much more in the book to flesh out the theory.

Please remember to call in by Monday, October 4 for the next meeting, or better yet, use the website to place your order.

I look forward to another good night, this time to listen to Patrick Falci talk about A. P. Hill, another Confederate General covered in glory and controversy.

--Joe Schaeffer

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## **Round Table Business**

President Joe Schaeffer kicked off our 14th Campaign at 6:30 p.m. at Golden Oaks Golf Club by asking Rob Marks to offer a prayer and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 78 members and guests present at our inaugural meeting. Dave Fox made a few remarks about June's field trip to the Harrisonburg, VA, area and discussed the possibility of a trip to Washington, DC, in the spring of 2011. Col. Ray Kimball, who guided our group at West Point, has been assigned to the White House and is eager to host our round table a second time. Trip plans will be evolving for the near future so stay tuned.

Joe thanked Pat and Arlan Christ for their many years of service to the round table. He also thanked Richard Kennedy for serving as Recording Secretary. He welcomed Lori Border and Dave Unger who are stepping into the vacant posts.

Solicitor Bob Grim spoke about the casino impetus that has returned to the Gettysburg Area. He had spoken to his State Representative about the issue and was told that that representative would hand-deliver a letter of protest to the representative from Adams County. Bob Shuman moved that we write and deliver such a letter representing our round table's view. Bob Burns seconded the motion, and the membership passed it unanimously. As of September 21st, that letter has been written and is on its way.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Former Treasurer Arlan Christ presented his final report at the September meeting. Our balance from May 11, 2010, was \$4,721.95. Receipts from the May meeting totaled \$10,263.95 which included field trip money. Expenses incurred totaled \$8,108.25 leaving a balance of \$2,155.70. The preservation fund had a total of \$526.00 prior to the September meeting. Lori Border has taken over the treasurer's job.

### **Membership**

It's time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2010-2011. Please fill out the attached form if you have not already done so, and return it with you check as soon as possible. Dave Unger informed the membership that we currently have 90 members.

### **Preservation**

Linda Zeiber took over Tom Tate's book raffle in his absence. We took in \$182.00, \$15 of which was donated and no tickets were taken. Two books were donated by a member for a future raffle. Our book table offered a box of hardtack from the sutler's shop at Fork Wilkins, Copper Harbor, Michigan. While food has never been raffled before, it was chosen well before our books were gone proving that we like to feed our bodies as well as our minds. Many thanks for the generosity of our members which has made it possible to send money for battlefield preservation.

Dave Unger spoke about the efforts to restore Cemetery Ridge at Gettysburg to its original appearance now that the old visitors' center has been demolished. My understanding is that the Friends/Foundation of Gettysburg is looking for public comment regarding the removal of the old Cyclorama building. The demolition of that building is being held up in a court action. Public opinion is needed now to get the entire project moving again.

I learned that Tom works hard with these monthly raffles. He deserves credit for his continuing efforts in preservation. I hope we support him well in the ensuing months.

--Linda Zeiber

### **Ed's Artifacts**

You may have wondered if a duel was in the offing when you first looked at Ed's table of artifacts this past month. Ed brought two pistols from his large collection of Civil War artifacts. One was a Colt 44 cal. which he described as the finest handgun used in the Civil War. It had been manufactured in March of 1862 in Hartford, CT. The other pistol was a 44 cal. Remington made in 1863. It is heavier than the Colt which made it popular amongst Cavalry troops since they could effectively hit the enemy with it in addition to shooting them.

The Colt was an expensive piece and sold for \$30 each which was more than a rifle cost at the time. The Remington 1863 cost the Army \$17 which was further reduced to \$15.50 so the Army decided to switch to Remington. The Colt was the most accurate weapon however.

Thanks, Ed, as always for sharing your collection of militaria as well as your vast knowledge.

### **October Trivia**

by Barb Shafer

1. Who was known as Robert E. Lee's most fighting general?

2. Where was the 17th National Scout Jamboree held?
3. A. P. Hill was known by what nickname to his soldiers?

#### **Adopt-A-Position Update**

Thank you to the members who worked in April at the 6th PA Cavalry monument in Gettysburg. We did not paint the back side of the fence at that time. Additionally, the fence has been repaired and the new boards need to be painted as well. Saturday, October 16th is the next work date for completion of this maintenance.

Please contact Don Stripling if you would like to work on this project. There will be a short meeting after the October RT meeting to discuss details of the work detail.

--Barb Shafer

There is the possibility of getting a work crew together to do a project at Antietam Battlefield. Don will have more details on this at the October meeting.

#### **From our "Web Master"...**

There will be a small change on the website under '**Programs**'. In the '**month**' tabs, we will be removing June and changing it to a '**TRIPS**' information tab. Additionally, the membership should be aware that the creation of the website came in on budget.

We have posted photos from the June field trip to the Harrisonburg area of Virginia and, most recently, from the September meeting. We would like to change photos from time to time. If you have any digital photos that you would like to share, please email them to Errol Steffy or Linda Zeiber for posting on the website. We could also use them if you provide them on a disc.

Many thanks to those members who bought Wittenberg books. About 40 were sold. It makes it much easier for us to have him return for another program when our membership gives him this very good support.

Update on Barnet Schecter's new book: *George Washington's America: A Biography Through His Maps*, will be published in October by Walker & Company. To read about the book and see a recent interview on C-SPAN, please visit the Walker site. Barnet gave an excellent program earlier in the year about the New York draft riots.

--Errol Steffy

#### **September's Program: Eric Wittenberg**

Eric Wittenberg made his second presentation for the First Defenders. He spoke about JEB Stuart's controversial ride during the Gettysburg Campaign. Eric is a well-known authority on Civil War cavalry. He has co-authored a book on this subject, *Plenty of Blame to Go Around*, which was the basis for his program. He dispelled many of the myths about what happened with Lee's Cavalry and led us to the long list of those to blame for the cavalry's inability to change the outcome of the battle at Gettysburg. Those in attendance agreed that Eric's presentation was exceptional.

To learn more about Eric Wittenberg, go to his website:  
[www.ericwittenberg.com/index.html](http://www.ericwittenberg.com/index.html).

#### **October's Program: Pat Falci**

##### **Lee's Forgotten General A. P. Hill at Gettysburg**

Details regarding Pat Falci's program for the meeting are available under the Programs' Tab of our website. Please refer to that for more information.

### **Reservations for the October 12, 2010 Meeting:**

**New Dinner Reservation Procedures:** If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for October include: Pasta Primavera, Chicken Pecan, or Broiled Flounder.

**The price is \$22.00 for meals. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection at 610.478.1717 no later than Monday, October 4, 2010, which is also the deadline for online reservations. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. This new phone number is Joe Schaeffer's business phone so we are asking you to be considerate about not calling until after 5:00 p.m.**

**\*NOTE\*:** Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. 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.

### **2010-2011 Program Schedule**

October 12, 2010: Patrick Falci  
November 9, 2010: Don Ernsberger  
December 14, 2010 Emily Lapisardi  
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February 8, 2011: Tom Tate  
March 8, 2011: Alan & Carla Messinger  
April 12, 2011: Edwin C. Bearss  
May 10, 2011: Joe Schaeffer

Lee's Forgotten Gen. A P Hill at Gettysburg  
69th PA at the Wall at Gettysburg  
Union Spy Elizabeth Van Lew  
South Justified in Secession  
Santa Anna's Spurs  
Native Americans in the Civil War  
Chancellorsville  
Commander William B. Cushing, 14th  
Campaign

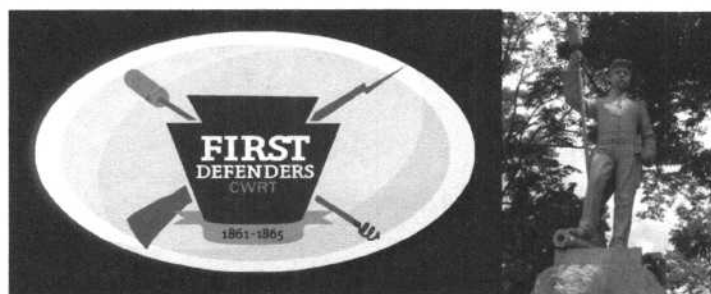


Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, [zeibers@comcast.net](mailto:zeibers@comcast.net)



# The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

November 2010



[www.firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwrt.us)

## From the President

My thanks to everyone who attended the October meeting, and you should all be proud of the amount of money raised in the book raffle. Keep up the good work. Patrick Falci and his wife enjoyed their visit and were very complimentary of the facility and meals. Patrick would like to return in 2012 and do a slide presentation that he has on "The Making of the Movie Gettysburg." I encourage you to call or email me or another board member with your comments.

The following is in regard to an unusual request that I received from someone who found our website. I received an email and then spoke to a lady by the name of Tracy Stivers. She thought that we were a reenactment group, and she was looking for people to attend a ceremony planned for October 30, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at Aulenbach Cemetery on Perkiomen Avenue in Reading. She had an ancestor named James Johnson Fisher who was in the 104th PA Volunteers. He was one of the people killed in 1877 at what became known as the "Reading Railroad Massacre." His gravestone at Aulenbach was badly deteriorated and, through her efforts, a new one has been provided by the VA. If anyone is interested in attending and/or helping (if you reenact), please call Tracy at 443.975.1773.

Please remember to phone in or use the website to reserve for November. Reminder: If you use the website, you will get an immediate acknowledgment when your reservation goes through. If you do not receive a response, please try again or call me, and I will help. Thanks, and I'll see you in November.

Joe

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## Round Table Business

President Joe Schaeffer called the October meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Golden Oaks Golf Club by asking Rob Marks to offer a prayer and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. There were **61 members** and guests present. Joe explained that he wanted to try changing the format of our meeting to enable members and guests to chat during dinner. As a result, the business portion of our meeting began at 7:35 p.m. Reports from board members were given only when pertinent information needed to be shared.

Joe began with an update on Tom Tate's status. He had seen Tom recently to pick up books for the raffles in Tom's absence. Tom tore a ligament in his knee while on a trip to Alaska in September. His surgery went well, and his stitches have been removed, but he has not begun physical therapy yet. We all wish Tom a quick recovery. We miss his smiling face at our meetings.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Lori Border reported that our balance from September's meeting was \$2,155.70. Receipts from the September meeting totaled \$3,182.00. Expenses incurred totaled \$2,090.81 leaving a balance of \$3,246.89. The preservation fund had a total of \$708.00 prior to the October meeting.

### **Membership**

Membership renewals were due on October 12, 2010. If you have not renewed, contact Dave Unger as soon as possible. Dave introduced new members Mike Brown and Ken Fake. Welcome new members.

### **Preservation**

Linda Zeiber once again took over Tom Tate's book raffle in his absence. We took in \$264.00 in ticket sales. Many thanks for the generosity of our members which make it possible to send money for battlefield preservation.

The next time that you are in Gettysburg, drive out Emmitsburg Road and notice the removal of two modern buildings on the left close to where you would turn left on to Confederate Avenue. Our money did not contribute to this. The Gettysburg Foundation with the CWPT purchased the two residences and had them demolished. But it is a perfect example of what our money can do and indeed has done.

Linda Zeiber

### **November Trivia**

by Barb Shafer

1. What was the name of the horse that suffered shrapnel to the nose and flank at the First Battle of Bull Run, a shot through the neck at Antietam, and a musket ball to the belly at Gettysburg that finally ended his combat service? He did survive another 20 years and lived to the age of 30.
2. Before Mrs. Obama, who was the last First Lady to visit Gettysburg without her husband?
3. Friday, November 19, 2010, in Gettysburg, the 147th Anniversary will be commemorated. What are some of the events that are scheduled?

### **Adopt-A-Position Update/Volunteer Workdays**

On Saturday, October 16, our crew--Roger Cotterill, Rob Marks, Barb Shafer, Don Stripling, and Linda Zeiber--traveled to Gettysburg for our Adopt-A-Position work day at the Gettysburg National Military Park. The destination was the 6th PA Cavalry (Rush's Lancers) monument on Emmitsburg Road. The crew painted the fences, cleared the weeds and brush, and tidied up the area around the monument. The crew provided all the muscle for these chores, and the GNMP provided the tools and paint. After our work was done, the GNMP maintenance personnel took our pictures and gave each of us an AAP/GNMP t-shirt.

These workdays are great opportunities for fellowship among the crew. We stopped for breakfast before going to the monument and had lunch after completing the work tasks. We traveled to Cashtown to see the Inn, stopped at the railroad station in town, visited

the Coster Avenue mural, and did some shopping at some of the businesses around the "square".

This will be our last workday for this calendar year. Looking ahead to 2011, more AAP work is possible plus participation in the annual CWPT Park Day (normally the first Saturday in April) is planned. The membership will be informed in plenty of time to make plans to join in the work crews.

Don Stripling



Don Stripling takes charge of a pruner while Roger Cotterill and Rob Marks paint the fence. Barb Shafer is delighted to see everyone working so hard.

### **FYI: Highlights of the First Defenders CWRT**

1. Inaugural meeting on April 15, 1997; 75 members attended at Moselem Springs Inn.
2. 1st book raffle on October 14, 1997--Tom Tate and Neal Swarmer
3. November 11, 1997, the Board establishes preservation fund from book raffle with Tom Tate, Chairman. 1st donation made to APGWS for \$500.
4. February 9, 1999, Jack Gurney mentioned bringing in artifacts for "show & tell".
5. June 1999 field trip to Fredericksburg, VA, included a surprise visit by Speaker of the US House of Representatives Newt Gingrich.
6. September 14, 1999, State Rep. Tom Caltagirone speaks on PA monument preservation.
7. November 9, 1999, was the best attended CWRT meeting with Brian Pohanka the speaker--95 in attendance.
8. March 14, 2000: Did You Know? by Tony Reilly
9. September 2000 Golden Oaks Country Club was our new home.
10. November 14, 2000, Evergreen Country Club was our new home.
11. November 14, 2000, 1st Tony Reilly trivia.
12. September 2001 return to Moselem Springs for meetings.
13. August 14, 2007, marked the passing of newsletter editor Tony Reilly
14. October 2007 Linda Zeiber takes over the newsletter.
15. September 9, 2007, Tribute to Jack Gurney CW artifacts.

16. November 13, 2007, Ed Ewing takes over artifacts "show & tell".
17. September 9, 2009, Barbara Shafer takes over trivia.
18. January 12, 2010, marked our last meeting at Moselem Springs Inn.
19. March 9, 2010, first meeting at Giannotti's Country Manor.
20. May 11, 2010, official name change to First Defenders CWRT of Berks County.
21. September 14, 2010, first meeting at Golden Oaks Golf Club.
22. July 2010 website goes online.
23. Preservation Book Raffle for one night sales in October: \$264.00.

Errol Steffy

### **Experience the CW in Pennsylvania**

To commemorate the upcoming 150th Anniversary of the Civil War (2011-2015), Pennsylvania is planning a wide array of special events and programs across the state that will bring personal stories of the war to life, including traveling exhibits and a website.

Visit [www.pacivilwar150.com](http://www.pacivilwar150.com) to immerse yourself in the stories and join in the conversation about this pivotal era of our history.

### **November's Program: Don Emsberger The 69th PA at the Wall at Gettysburg**

Details regarding Don Emsberger's program for the meeting are available under the Programs' Tab of our website. Please refer to that for more information.

### **Reservations for the November 9, 2010 Meeting:**

**New Dinner Reservation Procedures:** If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for November include: Cheese Stuffed Shells, Shrimp Stir Fry, Chicken Marsala.

**The price is \$22.00 for meals. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection at 610.478.1717 no later than Monday, November 1, 2010, which is also the deadline for online reservations. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. This new phone number is Joe Schaeffer's business phone so we are asking you to be considerate about not calling until after 5:00 p.m.**

**\*NOTE\*:** Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. 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.

### **2010-2011 Program Schedule**

December 14, 2010 Emily Lapisardi  
January 11, 2011: Round Table Discussion  
February 8, 2011: Tom Tate  
March 8, 2011: Alan & Carla Messinger  
April 12, 2011: Edwin C. Bearss  
May 10, 2011: Joe Schaeffer

Union Spy Elizabeth Van Lew  
South Justified in Secession  
Santa Anna's Spurs  
Native Americans in the Civil War  
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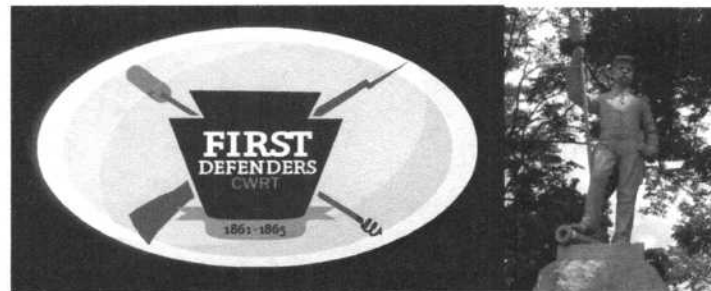
Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, [zeibers@comcast.net](mailto:zeibers@comcast.net)





# **The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter**

**December 2010**



**[www.firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwrt.us)**



**Happy Holidays to All as We Look Forward to  
Thanksgiving and Christmas**



## **From the President**

Thank you to everyone who attended the November meeting. The election of Abraham Lincoln has so angered some of our Southern brethren that at this moment they are threatening secession. There are a great many in the South who would tear this nation asunder to protect the institution of slavery. The Union which our forefathers died to create must be preserved at any cost. We fervently hope that reasonable leaders, in those state legislatures in turmoil, may yet carry the day and bring us back from the edge of the abyss. Pray for peace, but keep your powder dry.

I hope that you can all attend our December meeting. Emily Lapisardi will give us insight into the world of a courageous woman who risked everything to serve her country in a thankless and often overlooked, but necessary, struggle.

I have a request for everyone. Please show patience and courtesy to Lori Border and Dave Unger as they collect your money on meeting night. They are serving you in a very important way. Please bring change, when possible, and wait until they give you your meal ticket.

All that being said, have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to those of different faiths.

Joe Schaeffer

## **Round Table Business**

President Joe Schaeffer called the November meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Golden Oaks Golf Club by asking Rob Marks to offer a prayer and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 73 members and guests present. Joe welcomed our evening's speaker and his wife, Don and Louise Ernsberger. Denton Schucker introduced his guest Paul Stoudt. Greg and Sherri Stull attended for the first time after finding our round table through our website. Craig Brenheiser introduced his guest Lisa Hourt. It is a pleasure to welcome new folks to our group. Joe welcomed Warren Weber who participates in the discussion group that meets regularly at Border's.

Joe acknowledged our veterans with the approach of Veteran's Day. He also requested a moment of silence and prayers for the family and friends of Barbara Goda, long-time member who had passed away.

The timely making of reservations for the meetings continues to be a challenge for our president. **Please be sure to email or call your reservations and meal choices for our meeting no later than the Monday of the week before the meeting.** Meal choices and the deadline always appear at the end of the newsletter. Thus far, Golden Oaks has been more than understanding with late reservations.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Lori Border reported that our balance from October's meeting was \$3,246.89. Receipts from the October meeting totaled \$2,156.00. Expenses incurred totaled \$1,882.48 leaving a balance of \$3,520.41. The preservation fund had a total of \$974.00 prior to the November meeting.

Lori urgently requests that everyone try to bring the meal money with the exact amount at \$22.00 each. Giving change can be difficult especially when the money is collected early in the evening.

### **Membership**

Membership Chair Dave Unger introduced Gary Cole, Andrew Schneider, and Ken Schneider. Welcome new members!

### **Preservation**

Linda Zeiber once again took over Tom Tate's book raffle in his absence. We took in \$226.00 in ticket sales. Many thanks for the generosity of our members which make it possible to send money for battlefield preservation.

We fell a little short compared to October's ticket sales, but the total is excellent. I have been in touch with Tom, and he expects to honor us with his presence in December. Let's give him a royal homecoming with a bountiful sale of raffle tickets.

Linda Zeiber

### **June's Field Trip**

Dave Fox revealed details about the June 11, 2011, field trip. Eric Wittenberg will be the tour guide for the day. The bus will leave Wyomissing, PA, at 7:00 a.m. for the Visitor's Center at Gettysburg. From there the bus will travel to Westminster, MD. A boxed lunch will be provided. The return to Gettysburg is expected at 6 p.m. Dinner plans are still be formulated. The cost is projected to be \$75 provided 40 people are on the bus. More details will be announced at the December meeting so stay tuned.

### **Ed's Artifacts**

Ed Ewing provided us with a tableful of artifacts to study last month. Some items were from the J. Howard Werth Collection, a 2nd lieutenant who had bought up a considerable amount of the Gettysburg Collection. He also shared artifacts from the Shield's and Rosensteel Collections. Thanks, again, Ed for allowing us to enjoy your collection.

### **December Trivia**

by Barb Shafer

It was the nineteenth century when the Civil War broke out; women were tired of staying in the homes all day cleaning and working for their husbands and kids. They were frustrated by their limitations in society. Women were becoming more active, and many became spies or soldiers. Several hundred women joined their husbands, sons, or brothers working to help them.

Most of the spy networks were employed with men by the government. Many people did not like the idea of women doing a man's job, so the women made up their spy networks. In many cases, the information that the women received was more accurate than that of the men. After a while, people realized that the ladies were doing a good job.

1. Name a female spy for the Confederacy.
2. Name a female spy for the Union.

### **For Our Technologically Savvy Members:**

The Civil War Preservation Trust has unveiled the first of its kind GPS-Enabled Mobile Battlefield Tour. The new "Battle App" provides visitors with their own personal historian as they explore the Gettysburg Battlefield. This App takes advantage of the GPS technology and Apple's iPhone platform. The Gettysburg Battle App, which focuses on battle action that occurred at Devil's Den and Little Round Top, was created in partnership with Intermap Technologies, an industry leader in mobile GPS-enabled touring.

To learn more about CWPT's new Battle App initiative, please visit [www.civilwar.org/battleapp](http://www.civilwar.org/battleapp).

Speaking of technologically savvy members, we all need to give our appreciation to member Craig Brenheiser. He not only knows his way around computers, but he had to supply one to the speaker last month for his program. Craig, our new "Doctor of Technology", is a welcome addition to the round table. He eagerly offered his expertise when it was desperately needed. We will no doubt call on his services in the future so give him an *attaboy* when you see him in December.

### **The First Defenders CWRT, a New Member of AMART**

Errol Steffy has announced that The First Defenders CWRT is now a member of AMART, Association of Mid-Atlantic Civil War Round Tables at [www.amartcivilwar.org](http://www.amartcivilwar.org). This organization is a consortium of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey Civil War round tables. All round table programs are listed on this site.

Errol Steffy

### **Experience the CW in Pennsylvania**

To commemorate the upcoming 150th Anniversary of the Civil War (2011-2015), Pennsylvania is planning a wide array of special events and programs across the state that will bring personal stories of the war to life, including traveling exhibits and a website.

Visit [www.pacivilwar150.com](http://www.pacivilwar150.com) to immerse yourself in the stories and join in the conversation about this pivotal era of our history.

### **December's Program: Emily Lapisardi Union Spy Elizabeth Van Lew**

Details regarding Emily's program for the meeting are available under the Programs' Tab of our website. Please refer to that for more information.

### **The Seasons of Christmas**

By Linda Zeiber

The Christmas season has come round again... Christmas... the time of ribbons and gifts, lights and sounds, parties and mirth, brotherhood and peace on Earth. Conversely, it also often brings work and worry, shopping and traffic, exhaustion and frustrations. The season of Christmas often causes conflicting emotions for us all. I bought a memo pad not long ago that lists, in pale ink, twenty-five major battles of the Civil War on the lines intended for groceries, gifts, and various other must-do's. My intention was that, no matter how tired or aggravated I was, my chores were laughable by comparison to what had been required of others in other times.

Our modern Christmas practices were already firmly entrenched during the days of the Civil War. Eleanor Custis Lee wrote in her journal in 1853 of the family's tabletop Christmas tree at West Point while her father was superintendent of that military academy. President Franklin Pierce set up the first Presidential Christmas tree in the

White House in 1856. While tree ornaments would not be mass-produced for a decade after the Civil War, Americans had read the many Christmas descriptions of decorations and holiday festivities written in the widely popular works of Charles Dickens. By the middle of the Civil War, the postal service was offering free delivery to both manufactured and handmade Christmas cards during the holidays. The financial status of the Victorians determined the quality and quantity of gifts presented, but most all homes were decorated with greenery. Traditional holiday foods were found on dining tables, and children anticipated the presents left on and under the tree by Santa, whose unique Americanization was a gift from Clement Clark Moore in 1844. Of course, political cartoonist Thomas Nast drew Santa for publication in 1862, and the rest is history!

It is difficult to imagine the Christmas season of 1860 for Americans on both sides of the growing conflict with the specter of war on the horizon. Festivities surely were tempered when South Carolina's Governor Pickens announced that his state was to be 'separate, independent, free, and sovereign.' It seemed synonymous to a declaration of war. And, as anticipated, citizen soldiers spent the following Christmas of 1861 away from home and family.

Perhaps the adventure and novelty of the war made that first Christmas more tolerable for the soldiers despite their circumstances. Many diaries and letters home—both North and South—describe good food (either foraged or mailed from home), inordinate amounts of alcohol particularly enjoyed in egg nog, and games and competitions. The most common complaint centered around guard duty. But, by the Christmas of 1862, which was sandwiched between Fredericksburg and Murfreesboro, the tenor of written words had dramatically changed. A soldier from a Wisconsin unit that had fought at Murfreesboro wrote:

"Last night was Christmas Eve. It brought to my mind a thousand recollections of the past. The contrast is great. I sat up late in the evening at the fire...for we were under marching orders for this morning at five o'clock. A grand movement seems to be at hand. About eleven o'clock at night I heard heavy firing in the front. Where will the next Christmas Eve find me?"

The Christmases during the Civil War found the soldiers in winter camp for the most part. It is nearly impossible to imagine the drudgery and boredom and bleak living conditions and how this must have tempered any hope of celebrating the joys of the season. Loneliness and separation only worsened each succeeding year of war. Soldiers over the history of civilization have suffered the distance from loved ones made acutely painful by the memories of other Christmases. As we find ourselves in the midst of this holiday season, may we take time to remember those of the past and the present who have been called to serve our country and find themselves in distant places dreaming of nothing more than "home." It magnifies our blessings and enhances the true nature of Christmas.

### **Reservations for the December 14, 2010 Meeting:**

**New Dinner Reservation Procedures:** If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for December include: Vegetable Lasagna, Broiled Tilapia, or Chicken Cordon Bleu.

**The price is \$22.00 for meals. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection at 610.478.1717 no later than Monday, December 6, 2010, which is also the deadline for online reservations. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. This new phone number is Joe Schaeffer's**



**business phone so we are asking you to be considerate about not calling until after 5:00 p.m.**

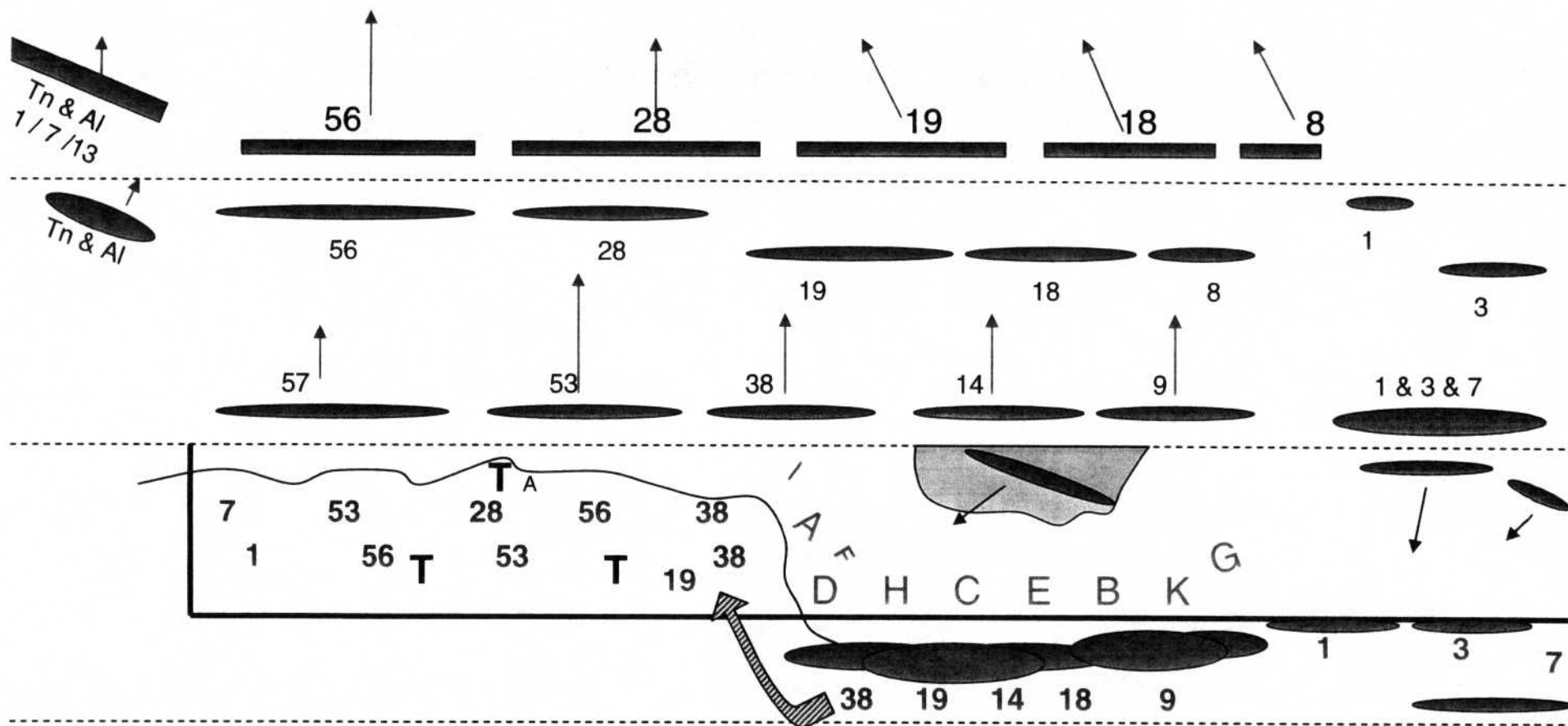
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### **2010-2011 Program Schedule**

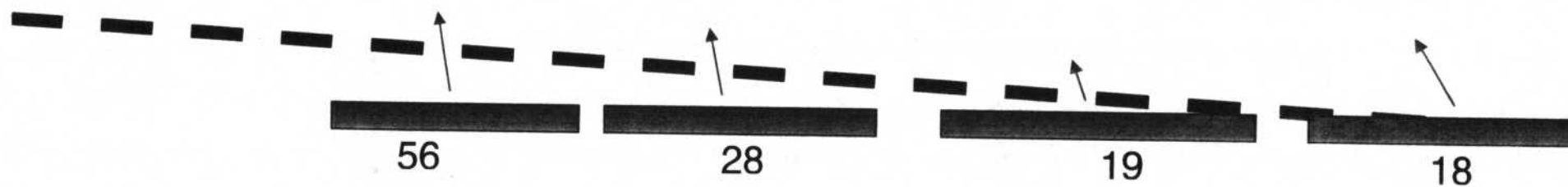
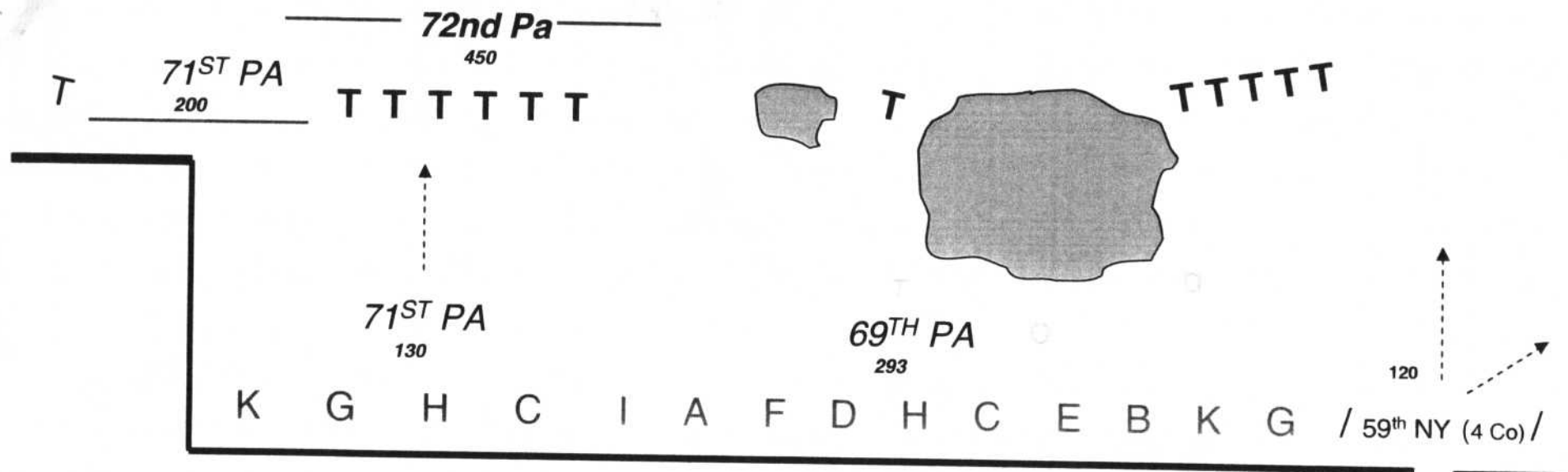
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Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, [zeibers@comcast.net](mailto:zeibers@comcast.net)

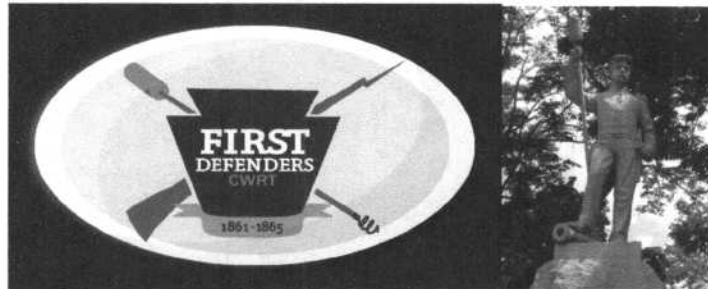


Don Ernsberger Author 69th PA Program 11-9-10



# **The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter**

**January 2011**



[www.firstdefenderscwr1.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwr1.us)

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### **From the President**

On November 6, 1860, roughly 4,700,000 American voters cast ballots in the presidential election. Abraham Lincoln received barely 40% of the popular vote but won easily in electoral voting. South Carolina, as threatened, quickly convened a convention of delegates and voted 169-0 to secede. An ordinance was enacted on December 20, "dissolving the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States." (Notice, no caps on union, but caps on States). By February 1, 1861, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas followed. Americans faced a serious question. Was secession constitutional? The Constitution does not specifically address this issue. Did the founders believe that no state would ever contemplate withdrawing, or did they simply "kick it down the road" for future generations to deal with?

Most secessionists insisted that State sovereignty predated, and therefore trumped, national sovereignty. Jefferson Davis spoke for many Southerners, "Will you consent to be robbed of your property or will you strike bravely for liberty, property, honor and life?"

Unionists disagreed. President James Buchanan, in his final address to Congress on December 3, 1860, asserted that "the Union was not a mere voluntary association of States, to be dissolved at pleasure by any one of the contracting parties...The framers never intended to implant in its bosom the seeds of its own destruction...By such a dread catastrophe the hopes of the friends of freedom throughout the world would be destroyed. Our example of more than 80 years would not only be lost, but it would be quoted as a conclusive proof that man is unfit for self-government."

President-elect Lincoln agreed. "No State, upon its own mere motion, can lawfully get out of the Union...They can only do so against law, and by revolution." The South had no just cause. The results of a legally held election had been too much for Southern fireaters to live with. Lincoln added, "We must settle this question now, whether in a free government the minority have the right to break up the government whenever they choose." Could the last, best hope for democracy in the world endure?

**Joe Schaeffer**



### **Round Table Business**

President Joe Schaeffer called the December meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Golden Oaks Golf Club by asking Rob Marks to offer a prayer and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Joe welcomed our evening's speaker, Emily Lapisardi, and her mother, Jacqueline. Many guests and new members were in attendance. Newest round table members include Beulah Fehr, Dr. Bob and Linda Denby, Greg and Sherri Stull, and Warren Weber. It is always a pleasure to welcome new folks to our group. Joe reminded everyone of the group that meets at Borders the 3rd Wednesday of each month year 'round. The discussion group meets at 7:00 p.m. and has led many of its group to our round table.

Rob Marks commented that several members will be doing presentations in the future. January's meeting is our annual open forum round table discussion--free-wheeling and inviting responses from all in attendance. January's topic is "Was the South Justified in Seceding?".

### **Weather Cancellations**

While no one is ready for an onslaught of winter weather, it is important to be prepared in the eventuality that a meeting should have to be canceled due to unsafe driving conditions. A cancellation will be posted on the home page of the website, [www.firstdefenderscwt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwt.us). An announcement will also be made on WEEU 850.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Lori Border reported that our balance from November's meeting was \$2,714.41. Receipts from the November meeting totaled \$1,926.00 leaving a balance of \$3,640.41 as of December 14, 2010. The preservation fund had a total of \$1,200.00 prior to the December meeting.

Lori urgently requests that everyone try to bring the meal money with the exact amount at \$22.00 each. Giving change can be difficult especially when the money is collected early in the evening.

### **Preservation**

Linda and Gerry Zeiber once again took over Tom Tate's book raffle in his absence. We took in \$153.00. Many thanks for the generosity of our members which make it possible to send money for battlefield preservation.

Even though Tom Tate has been unable to attend meetings for the past few months, he is still keeping tabs on what is happening with battlefield preservation. He urged members to consider making a donation for a parcel of land in the Wilderness Battlefield. According to a map that Tom had access to, the parcel of land will join two parts of the battlefield already in Park Service control. It is part of Saunder's Field, the scene of early fighting at the Wilderness. A number of PA regiments fought on the parcel including the 118th (Corn Exchange), the 93rd, and 96th Regiments.

Joe Schaeffer reviewed this information with those in attendance, and it was decided to send \$300 to this worthy cause.

Of course, the casino issue in Gettysburg continues to be a concern. A vote is expected on January 6, 2011. According to an article recently published in the Harrisburg daily newspaper, things are not looking favorable for this license for a variety of reasons.

Linda Zeiber

### **June 2011 Field Trip Stuart's Ride**

The coach (British for *bus*) will leave Wyomissing at 7:00 a.m. and pick up our guide Eric Wittenberg at the Gettysburg Visitor Center around 9:00 a.m. We will then head to Westminster, Maryland, where the full tour will begin. In Westminster, Stuart

clashed with two companies of the 1st Delaware Cavalry on June 29, 1863. The historic location of Union Mills, Maryland, follows where Stuart's brigades camped that evening.

Next will be a comprehensive tour of sites in and around Hanover, PA, the location of Stuart's day-long battle with union Brig. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick's cavalry division on June 30. The tour then follows Stuart's long trek on seldom-seen historic backroads to Carlisle. After a tour of the sites in Carlisle, the tour follows Stuart's all-night July 2 march to Gettysburg. Just northeast of the town, one of Stuart's brigades under Wade Hampton clashed again with Kilpatrick's division at the small crossroads at Hunterstown. The tour concludes back at the Gettysburg Visitor Center.

There will be a buffet-style dinner stop in York on our way back to Wyomissing, and a boxed lunch will be provided which we will eat on the fly during the tour. Bottled water will be available on the bus.

We expect to be back in Wyomissing at approximately 9:30 p.m. Checks should be made payable to First Defenders CWRT and are to be sent to Joseph Schaeffer at:

Heartland Settlement Company  
55 Commerce Drive  
Wyomissing, PA 19601

To secure a seat for this field trip, please advise Dave Fox at 610.582.9245 as early as possible. Dave is planning to be away for a bit in which case you should call Joe Schaeffer at his office at 610.478.1717. If we do not have 40 commitments by May 10, 2011, the trip will be cancelled and all monies paid will be returned. The cost is projected to be \$75 provided 40 people are on the bus.

#### **Ed's Artifacts**

Ed Ewing brought a lance head and counter that had belonged to the 6th PA Cavalry, Rush's Lancers. This is of particular interest to some of us who have worked on the 6th's monument that Barb Shafer sponsors. Very few of these lance heads exist today.

Ed also brought a 52 cal. 1863 Sharps carbine which had been issued to the 6th. They had received 50 Model 1859's for picket duty.

Ed explained that officers liked the 6th PA for escorts because they looked good. Additionally, the lances were gone by the time of the Gettysburg Campaign. Thanks, again, Ed for allowing us to enjoy your collection.

#### **HACC Civil War Seminar**

by Don Stripling

Harrisburg Area Community College Gettysburg Campus is presenting its annual spring Civil War seminar on March 26, 2011. The keynote speaker will be Eric Wittenberg. The seminar begins at 8:00 AM with a continental breakfast. Wittenberg will make his talk at 9:00 AM. Six 1 1/2 hour classroom sessions will follow and a buffet lunch will begin at noon. About 1:30 PM the morning classroom sessions head out to the battlefield for a 2 1/2 hour tour. Five of these classroom sessions/tours are presented by Licensed Battlefield Guides and the sixth will be presented by Eric. His subject will be John Buford. The cost for the entire program is \$69. For more information, call 717.338.1010 or visit [www.hacc.edu](http://www.hacc.edu).

#### **"The Life and Times of a Civil War Soldier"**

by Don Stripling

Patrick Falci, our October speaker, has developed a living history program entitled "The Life and Times of a Civil War soldier" which he presents to school students of all ages. This is an informative, interactive, and entertaining program on the War Between the States. Length of the program varies based upon it being a class program,

an assembly program, or an all-day program. If you are an educator or know someone who could avail themselves of this program, contact Patrick directly at 718.525.3446. He has done several of these programs in Pennsylvania and can provide you with references.

### **First Defenders CWRT, a New Member of AMART**

Errol Steffy has announced that our round table is now a member of AMART, Association of Mid-Atlantic Civil War Round Tables at [www.amartcivilwar.org](http://www.amartcivilwar.org). This organization is a consortium of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey Civil War round tables. All round table programs are listed on this site.

### **Experience the CW in Pennsylvania**

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Visit [www.pacivilwar150.com](http://www.pacivilwar150.com) to immerse yourself in the stories and join in the conversation about this pivotal era of our history.

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### **January's Program: Round Table Discussion War the South Justified in Seceding?**

Details regarding this program for the meeting are available under the Programs' Tab of our website. Please refer to that for more information.

### **Reservations for the January 11, 2011 Meeting:**

**New Dinner Reservation Procedures:** If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for January include: Vegetable Stir Fry, Broiled Flounder, or Sirloin Beef Tips.

**The price is \$22.00 for meals. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection at 610.478.1717 no later than Monday, January 3, 2011, which is also the deadline for online reservations. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. This new phone number is Joe Schaeffer's business phone so we are asking you to be considerate about not calling until after 5:00 p.m.**

**\*NOTE\*** Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. 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.

### **2011 Program Schedule**

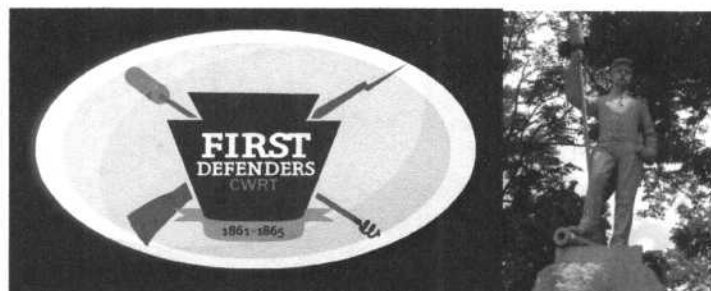
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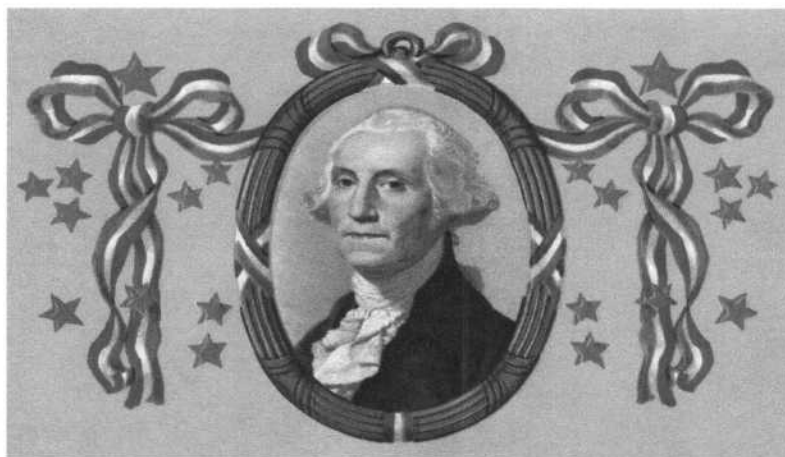
# The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2011



[www.firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwrt.us)

Happy President's Day



## From the President

America's North and South gazed at the bleak winter skies of 1861 with anxious concerns for the future of their republic. Seven lower Southern states had declared themselves to be independent from the Union. How many more would follow? Lame-duck President James Buchanan, although constitutionally empowered to act, did almost nothing, blaming President-elect Abraham Lincoln's party for the rift. Lincoln, who would not be sworn in until March 4, could do little but voice his wishes. What course then should the nation's leaders follow? Some felt that the four-month period between election and inauguration would allow tempers to cool and give secessionists time to come to their senses. Senator John J. Crittenden, lending his name to a group of amendments known as the "Crittenden Compromise", sought to appease Southerners by confirming slavery forever. Lincoln let it be known that he was willing to compromise on some issues but not on the extension of slavery into new territories. Many hard-line Republicans, especially Westerners, fearful of loss of access to the lower Mississippi, "swore by everything in the Heavens that they would convert rebel States into a wilderness."

Horace Greeley's *New York Tribune* challenged the Southerners, "If the Cotton States shall become satisfied that they can do better out of the Union than in it, we insist on letting them go." In the end, neither compromise nor threats could change the minds



of Southern fire-eaters. Delegates from the seven seceding states met on February 4, 1861, at Montgomery, Alabama. Moving with incredible speed, over a six-day period, they formed a provisional Congress, drafted a temporary constitution, and elected Jefferson Davis to be President for a single six-year term. The Confederacy would ultimately not live to elect a second President. Davis, in his first presidential speech, spouted venom, declaring that, "The time for compromise has now passed. The South is determined to maintain her position and make all who oppose her smell Southern powder and feel Southern steel." A band played *Dixie*.

Joe Schaeffer

### **Round Table Business**

Because of the cancellation of January's meeting, no new business was conducted since December's meeting.

### **Weather Cancellations**

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### **February Trivia**

by Barb Shafer

1. This man dominated Mexican politics for 30 years, sometimes with disastrous results.

2. What is the full name of Santa Anna?

3. Upon Santa Anna's capture, Houston defied popular opinion and let Santa Anna live. Why?

### **Plan Now for the April Meeting**

Ed Bearss, America's premier battlefield historian and the historian emeritus of the National Park Service, is returning to the First Defenders in April to speak to us about Chancellorsville. On the day of our meeting, one hundred fifty years earlier, the Civil War started with the first shots fired on Fort Sumter. With all of the places that Edwin C. Bearss could be on this day, he chose the First Defenders Civil War Round Table.

What a great honor he bestows upon us. Thank you, Ed. And, thank you to our Programs' Committee for another incredible speaker. See the Programs & Events' page for additional information.

### **June 2011 Field Trip**

#### **Stuart's Ride**

The coach (British for *bus*) will leave Wyomissing at 7:00 a.m. and pick up our guide Eric Wittenberg at the Gettysburg Visitor Center around 9:00 a.m. We will then head to Westminster, Maryland, where the full tour will begin. In Westminster, Stuart clashed with two companies of the 1st Delaware Cavalry on June 29, 1863. The historic location of Union Mills, Maryland, follows where Stuart's brigades camped that evening.

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Wyomissing, PA 19601

To secure a seat for this field trip, please advise Dave Fox at 610.582.9245 as early as possible. Dave is planning to be away for a bit in which case you should call Joe Schaeffer at his office at 610.478.1717. If we do not have 40 commitments by May 10, 2011, the trip will be cancelled and all monies paid will be returned. The cost is projected to be \$75 provided 40 people are on the bus.

### **HACC Civil War Seminar**

by Don Stripling

Harrisburg Area Community College Gettysburg Campus is presenting its annual spring Civil War seminar on March 26, 2011. The keynote speaker will be Eric Wittenberg. The seminar begins at 8:00 AM with a continental breakfast. Wittenberg will make his talk at 9:00 AM. Six 1 1/2 hour classroom sessions will follow and a buffet lunch will begin at noon. About 1:30 PM the morning classroom sessions head out to the battlefield for a 2 1/2 hour tour. Five of these classroom sessions/tours are presented by Licensed Battlefield Guides and the sixth will be presented by Eric. His subject will be John Buford. The cost for the entire program is \$69. For more information, call 717.338.1010 or visit [www.hacc.edu](http://www.hacc.edu).

### **"The Life and Times of a Civil War Soldier"**

by Don Stripling

Patrick Falci, our October speaker, has developed a living history program entitled "The Life and Times of a Civil War soldier" which he presents to school students of all ages. This is an informative, interactive, and entertaining program on the War Between the States. Length of the program varies based upon it being a class program, an assembly program, or an all-day program. If you are an educator or know someone who could avail themselves of this program, contact Patrick directly at 718.525.3446. He has done several of these programs in Pennsylvania and can provide you with references.

### **A New Web Page To Be Added**

Errol Steffy has announced that we will be adding a new web page to our site in the near future. This page will be a "links" page that will allow the user to connect with other round tables and related Civil War web sites. If any member has a site that he or she would like to see linked through this page, please contact Errol Steffy.

### **Experience the CW in Pennsylvania**

To commemorate the upcoming 150th Anniversary of the Civil War (2011-2015), Pennsylvania is planning a wide array of special events and programs across the state that will bring personal stories of the war to life, including traveling exhibits and a website.

Visit [www.pacivilwar150.com](http://www.pacivilwar150.com) to immerse yourself in the stories and join in the conversation about this pivotal era of our history.

**February's Program: Santa Anna's Spurs  
presented by First Defender's Member Tom Tate**

Details regarding this program for the meeting are available under the Programs' Tab of our website. Please refer to that for more information.

**Reservations for the February 8, 2011 Meeting:**

**New Dinner Reservation Procedures:** If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for February include: Vegetable Stir Fry, Broiled Flounder, or Sirloin Beef Tips.

**The price is \$22.00 for meals. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection at 610.478.1717 no later than Monday, January 31, 2011, which is also the deadline for online reservations. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. This new phone number is Joe Schaeffer's business phone so we are asking you to be considerate about not calling until after 5:00 p.m.**

**\*NOTE\*** Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. 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.

**2011 Program Schedule**

February 8, 2011: Tom Tate  
March 8, 2011: Alan & Carla Messinger  
April 12, 2011: Edwin C. Bearss  
May 10, 2011: Joe Schaeffer

Santa Anna's Spurs  
Native Americans in the Civil War  
Chancellorsville  
Commander William B. Cushing and the  
Attack on the Albemarle

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber at [zeibers@comcast.net](mailto:zeibers@comcast.net)

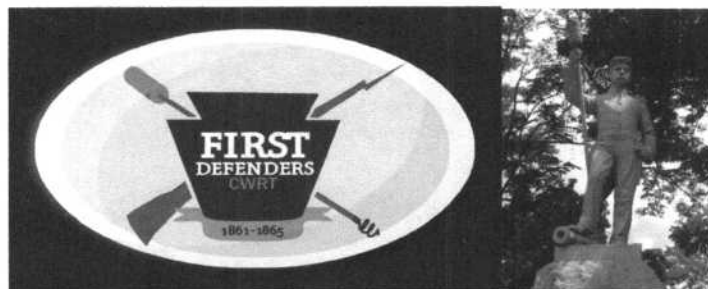


**Happy Valentine's Day!**

# **The First Defenders**

## **Civil War Round Table Newsletter**

**March 2011**



[www.firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwrt.us)



### **From the President**

Inauguration Day 1861 was March 4, not in January as we have now. Winter weather was much more of an obstacle to travel in the 19th century. As February waned, most Americans clung to the hope that the darkening clouds of war on the horizon might still pass away. Hope was fading. The newly-formed Confederacy moved quickly to strengthen its standing by seizing Federal property. Lame-duck President James Buchanan did his best to do nothing, hoping to leave the crisis to Lincoln and the Republicans, whom he saw as the source of the troubles. When the Rebels fixed their eyes on the forts in Charleston Harbor, Buchanan was forced to take a stand. Major Robert Anderson, a Kentuckian loyal to the Union and a very capable officer, forced the hands of both sides. Finding his small force of 80 men vulnerable to be attacked at Fort Moultrie, he skillfully moved them, under cover of darkness and under the noses of thousands of Rebel militia to Fort Sumter. Southern leaders howled in indignation while the Northern press cheered Anderson. Their elation would be short-lived unless Anderson could be resupplied and reinforced. Buchanan made a feeble attempt which failed to do anything except infuriate Southern leaders, who felt betrayed, feeling they had an understanding not to attack so long as Buchanan did not reinforce. The storm clouds grew darker.

Lincoln, still hoping to avoid war, spent the winter months sorting through and appointing cabinet members. He chose many political rivals, hoping to create an atmosphere for reconciliation. Lincoln's speech on Inauguration Day promised peace or war, leaving the choice in the hands of Southern leaders. His words ring through the ages as a plea for peace.

"In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. ... You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it.

"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory,

stretching from every battlefield, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature." Events at Fort Sumter would soon provide an answer to Lincoln's plea.

Joe Schaeffer

### **Round Table Business**

President Joe Schaeffer called the February meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with 60 members in attendance. Rob Marks offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Joe reminded everyone to make their reservations for meetings on time. This issue has been an ongoing problem for a small number of members. Also, members are reminded to bring exact change when paying for meals upon arrival. Making change is very difficult early in the collection of money. One more housekeeping task involves that everyone make sure that his/her email address is correct. Joe finds that several emails are returned each month when he sends the reminders to check the website for the current newsletter and reservation information.

Joe announced that the round table discussion that had been planned for the 2011 January's meeting has been rescheduled for next January since the topic was of great interest to many and much research had been done by individuals in preparation for the debate.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Lori Border reported that our treasury had \$3,640.41 with expenses of \$2535.77. Receipts totaled \$1791.00 leaving a balance of \$2895.64. The preservation fund had \$900 prior to the February meeting.

### **Ed's Artifacts**

Ed Ewing shared some early and rare objects. His waist belt with the US plate is hard to find. Equally rare is the Type 1 bayonet scabbard manufactured between 1835 and 1842.

The 1839 69 cal. cartridge box is also a rare object. The 1826 eagle plate speaks to the scarcity of such items. Ed also brought a display of minie balls that he collected near the Wilderness Battlefield park land in the '60's. It is always fascinating to learn the stories that accompany Ed's artifacts. Thanks for sharing.

### **Preservation/Book Raffle**

It was good to be back at the Round Table after being away for so many months. Marilyn and I appreciate your concern and your best wishes. We raised another \$173.00 for preservation at our February meeting. That brings our total so far to \$1,073.00. Considering that we made a donation to the Wilderness, and we had no meeting in January, to have over \$1,000 by February is a sign of good work. Thank you all for your support of battlefield preservation. Our book inventory remains good, and we should do very well in April when the noted Ed Bearss will be the speaker.

### **An Addendum to the February Program, Santa Anna's Spurs**

I recently read something about Santa Anna which agrees with the comments from Rodney LaPearl regarding Santa Anna having a wooden leg. It seems that he did indeed have one so, when he gave his spurs to General Scott, he took one off a wooden leg. I am reading a biography of President James K. Polk and discovered the following information:

Sometime around 1840, Santa Anna fought the French in Vera Cruz. They had come because Mexico defaulted on its international debt. Santa Anna lost the lower part of his left leg which he buried with great pomp and ceremony.

Tom Tate



### **March Trivia**

by Barb Shafer

1. Name two Native Americans that served in the Civil War who obtained the rank of general during that time.
2. Native Americans served in the Union and the Confederate armies in what capacities?

### **VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS**

**There will be 2 opportunities in April to participate in volunteer work days. We will meet locally and carpool to the sites.**

**The first event will be at Antietam, April 2, where we will participate in the National Park Day program sponsored by the Civil War Trust (formerly CWPT). We'll register between 8:30 AM and 9:00 AM and either clear brush or plant trees. After a lunch break, we'll return for a ranger-led tour.**

**The second event will be April 30 when we'll travel to Gettysburg to work on Barb Shafer's 6<sup>th</sup> PA Cavalry monument. We'll begin work at 10:00 AM and after lunch "investigate" the town as there will be a 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary program that weekend.**

**If you're interested in helping at either or both programs, please contact Don Stripling ([donstripling54@msn.com](mailto:donstripling54@msn.com)) or call 610.750.3998) to let him know of your interest.**

### **From Dave Unger....**

The Historical Society of Berks County is offering the following programs and trips of interest to Civil War buffs. You can call for more information at (610) 375-4375:

1. March 24<sup>th</sup> to March 28<sup>th</sup> HSBC is running a trip to Atlanta, Georgia to see the HSBC collection at the Civil War Locomotive Museum and follow the route of the "The General", the Confederate locomotive captured by Union troops in 1862. The cost, including the airfare is \$1295. The trip is almost full.
2. Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> (time to be announced) the HSBC will kick off a presidential forum with a speaker on Abraham Lincoln, Dr. Matthew Pinsker of Dickenson College. Cost is \$5 for non-members and \$4 for members.
3. May 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. the Auxiliary of HSBC will have their spring luncheon at the Crown Plaza. The program is "Abe and Mary Lincoln" performed by William and Sue Willis of Winter Park, Florida.
4. Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> the second Saturday program will feature Michelle Lynch, Editor of the Historical Review, talking about the relationship between Lincoln and Matilda Edwards Strong, in 1841-42. Cost is \$5 for non-members and \$4 for members.

5. The Ladies Auxiliary of HSBC is running a two day trip in May to Lincoln's summer White House in Washington, DC followed by a bus trip tracing the route of Lincoln's train to Gettysburg to deliver his Gettysburg Address.

### **From Dale Kratzer...**

#### **Civil War Class at Alvernia University's Seniors College (ASC)**

Beginning at the end of March, there will be a three (3) **week** class at the ASC on selected films and lesser known events of the Civil War. The class description is as follows:

An eclectic Civil War mix. Part will view clips of selected films based on "actual" events and then discuss what "really" happened. Part will discuss other little known events such as various Union and Confederate raids on land and water, Confederate rustling of the entire Union cattle herd at Petersburg, Confederate bank robbers in Vermont, Civil War bioterrorism: the almost Yellow Fever plot, and others."

The class is tentatively scheduled for the Wednesday afternoons of March 30, and April 6 and 13. Length of each class is approximately 1.5 hours. Check the Alvernia website for final details.

Typically, for the ASC there is a membership fee and a nominal fee for the class. For this class **only**, interested Round Table members will have the membership fee waived and pay only \$35.00 for the class.

#### **Plan Now for the April Meeting**

Ed Bearss, America's premier battlefield historian and the historian emeritus of the National Park Service, is returning to the First Defenders in April to speak to us about the events leading up to Fort Sumter. On the day of our meeting, one hundred fifty years earlier, the Civil War started with the first shots fired on Fort Sumter. With all of the places that Edwin C. Bearss could be on this day, he chose the First Defenders Civil War Round Table.

What a great honor he bestows upon us. Thank you, Ed. And, thank you to our Programs' Committee for the return of this incredible speaker. See the Programs & Events' page for additional information. Ed will not be bringing books with him on the night of his presentation. If you want anything autographed, you will have to bring the books with you.

**Reservation Information Update:** Some discussion occurred at the February meeting about having early reservations for members vs. a later deadline for guests who may want to attend the meeting to hear Ed Bearss. Golden Oaks has assured us that 90 people can be accommodated in our usual room with additional seating for 30 in the room next to our meeting room. 120 attendees will be the maximum number allowable for the meeting. Therefore, we will use our customary deadlines for all reservations. Specific details will be available in the April newsletter.

#### **June 2011 Field Trip**

### **Stuart's Ride**

The bus will leave Wyomissing at 7:00 a.m. and pick up our guide Eric Wittenberg at the Gettysburg Visitor Center around 9:00 a.m. We will then head to Westminster, Maryland, where the full tour will begin. In Westminster, Stuart clashed with two companies of the 1st Delaware Cavalry on June 29, 1863. The historic location of Union Mills, Maryland, follows where Stuart's brigades camped that evening.

Next will be a comprehensive tour of sites in and around Hanover, PA, the location of Stuart's day-long battle with union Brig. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick's cavalry division on June 30. The tour then follows Stuart's long trek on seldom-seen historic backroads to Carlisle. After a tour of the sites in Carlisle, the tour follows Stuart's all-night July 2 march to Gettysburg. Just northeast of the town, one of Stuart's brigades under Wade Hampton clashed again with Kilpatrick's division at the small crossroads at Hunterstown. The tour concludes back at the Gettysburg Visitor Center.

There will be a buffet-style dinner stop in York on our way back to Wyomissing, and a boxed lunch will be provided which we will eat on the fly during the tour. Bottled water will be available on the bus.

We expect to be back in Wyomissing at approximately 9:30 p.m. Checks should be made payable to First Defenders CWRT and are to be sent to Joseph Schaeffer at:

Heartland Settlement Company  
55 Commerce Drive  
Wyomissing, PA 19610

To secure a seat for this field trip, please advise Dave Fox at 610.582.9245 as early as possible. Dave is planning to be away for a bit in which case you should call Joe Schaeffer at his office at 610.478.1717. If we do not have 40 commitments by May 10, 2011, the trip will be cancelled and all monies paid will be returned. The cost is projected to be \$75 provided 40 people are on the bus.

### **Check out our Links' Page on the Website**

Errol Steffy has added a new link on our links page. This one is from the Department of Veterans Affairs at <http://www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp>. If you have an ancestor who was honorably discharge from the military, you are entitled to a Presidential Memorial Certificate. These are engraved paper certificates signed by the current President to honor the memory of an honorable discharged deceased Veteran. Your ancestor may have served the military during at any time not just the Civil War.

If any member has a site that he or she would like to see linked through this page, please contact Errol Steffy. This webpage connects you to many valuable resources.

### **Experience the CW in Pennsylvania**

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**March's Program: Native Americans in the Civil War**  
**presented by Alan & Carla Messinger**

Details regarding this program for the meeting are available under the Programs' Tab of our website. Please refer to that for more information.

### **Reservations for the March 8, 2011 Meeting:**

**New Dinner Reservation Procedures:** If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for March include: Vegetable Lasagna, Broiled Salmon, and Shepherd's Pie.

**The price is \$22.00 for meals. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection at 610.478.1717 no later than Monday, February 28 which is also the deadline for online reservations. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. This new phone number is Joe Schaeffer's business phone so we are asking you to be considerate about not calling until after 5:00 p.m.**

**\*NOTE\*** Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. 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.

### **2011 Program Schedule**

March 8, 2011: Alan & Carla Messinger

April 12, 2011: Edwin C. Bearss

May 10, 2011: Joe Schaeffer

Native Americans in the Civil War

Events Leading Up to Fort Sumter

Commander William B. Cushing and the

Attack on the Albemarle

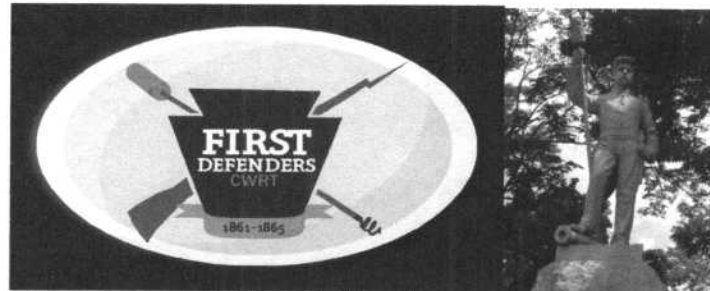


Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber at [zeibers@comcast.net](mailto:zeibers@comcast.net)

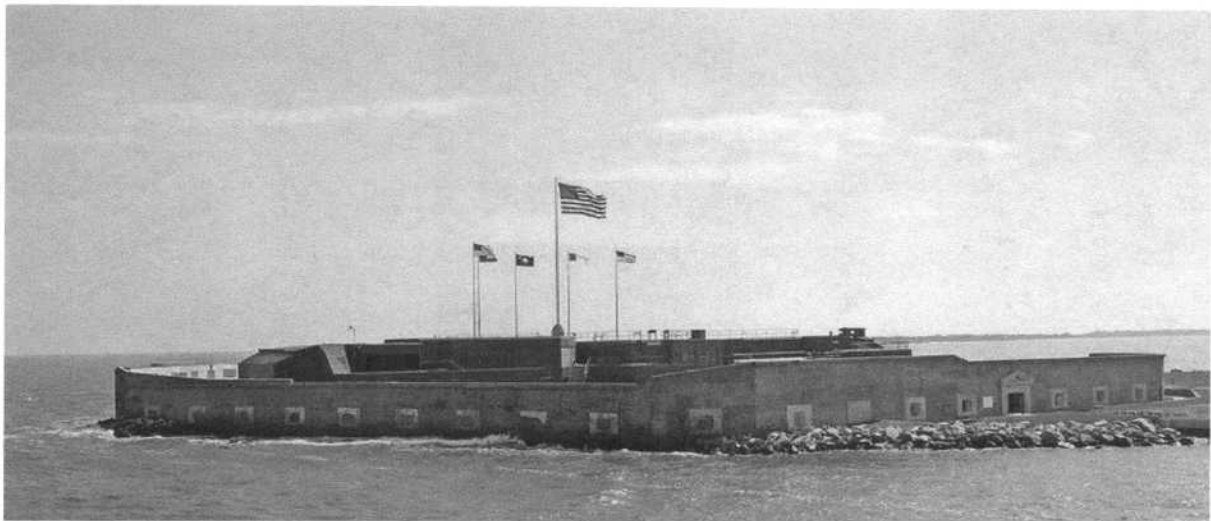
# **The First Defenders**

## **Civil War Round Table Newsletter**

**April 2011**



[www.firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwrt.us)



### **From the President**

Abraham Lincoln found a letter on his desk on March 5 informing him that Fort Sumter could not be held unless resupplied and reinforced. He spent the remainder of March considering his options. He warned Confederate leaders that, should they continue their aggressive policy of seizing Federal installations, he would go to war to reclaim them. Simultaneously he offered an olive branch of peace. Stephen Douglas, longtime opponent of Lincoln, now supported war telling a crowd in Illinois, "There are only two sides to the question. Every man must be for the United States, or against it." Union men were rapidly losing patience with their Southern brethren. Jefferson Davis faced his own dilemma. He needed the support of England and France. They needed to see that his Confederacy could stand. Virginia and other states in the upper South had not seceded. How could he convince them to join his Confederacy? Edwin Ruffin of Virginia spoke to his fellow citizens, "The shedding of blood will serve to change many voters in the hesitating states." Davis needed a crisis that he could exploit. Secretary of State William Seward, without Lincoln's permission, was playing a dangerous game secretly assuring Confederate leaders that Lincoln would not move to save Sumter. Lincoln had other ideas. On April 8, an envoy from Lincoln presented a



message to South Carolina Governor Pickens telling him of Lincoln's plan to resupply with provisions only and not act with force unless fired upon. If Davis wanted a war, he would have to fire the first shot. The reply was not long in coming.

--Joe Schaeffer

### **Round Table Business**

President Joe Schaeffer called the March meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with 71 members in attendance. Rob Marks offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Four new members were introduced. We wish a warm welcome to Dan and Andrew Johnson, Carlene Bordner, and Tom Kimmell. Dave Unger introduced his guest for the evening, Boots Fehr, the new president of the Berks County Historical Society.

Joe discussed the procedure for April's meeting and how the larger-than-usual numbers are expected for the return of Ed Bearss. Golden Oaks will accommodate a maximum of 120 members and guests. Some will dine in the loft area and then move into the meeting room for the program. Make your reservations early for this highly anticipated program.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Lori Border reported that our treasury had \$4,691.64 as of February 8, 2011, with expenses of \$1,3441.84. Receipts totaled \$1796.00 leaving a balance of \$3349.80. The preservation fund had \$1,073.00 prior to the March meeting.

### **Ed's Artifacts**

Ed Ewing shared an array of 'underwater' items. Included were 100 bullets from an explosion off City Point, VA, found in the James River. Many items were from blockade runners. Two inkwells were found near Fort Fisher in Wilmington, NC. One could never predict what might turn up on Ed's table. Thanks for sharing your vast collection with us.

### **Preservation/Book Raffle**

The members continue to support preservation by purchasing our raffle tickets. We raised another \$176.00 for preservation at our March meeting. We now have \$1,249.00 in the fund with two more meetings to go. Speaking of preservation, Civil War Preservation Trust is working to raise money for the purchase of 95 acres at Gettysburg. This is a very good leveraging opportunity: \$29.00 to \$1.00. They need to raise \$70,000 for this purchase that will cost two million dollars. I think we are in a good position financially to help preserve this very important battlefield by adding this additional parcel of land.

I am not sure when the deadline is; however, I'm sure we can help save this land if the members are of a mind to do so. We will need someone to make the proper motion.

Tom Tate

### **About Ed Bearss...**

Errol Steffy would like to share some important information about Ed's visit. Ed will be bringing no books with him to sell. If you would like to have something autographed, you will need to obtain that in advance and bring it along to the meeting. Ed's vast knowledge of history goes far beyond the Civil War. He would be happy to discuss any other history topics with you prior to the meeting. He will only entertain questions about the Civil War after his presentation however.

Ed is very friendly and likes to talk about history. Do not hesitate to approach him should he be alone at the autograph table. Say 'hello' and thank him for joining us again, especially on the anniversary of this special date in history.

### **VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS**

There will be two opportunities in April to participate in volunteer work days. We will meet locally and carpool to the sites. The first event will be at Antietam, April 2,

where we will participate in the National Park Day program sponsored by the Civil War Trust (formerly CWPT). We'll register between 8:30 AM and 9:00 AM and either clear brush or plant trees. After a lunch break, we'll return for a ranger-led tour.

The second event will be April 30 when we'll travel to Gettysburg to work on Barb Shafer's 6<sup>th</sup> PA Cavalry monument. We'll begin work at 10:00 AM and after lunch "investigate" the town as there will be a 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary program that weekend.

If you're interested in helping at either or both programs, please contact Don Stripling ([donstripling54@msn.com](mailto:donstripling54@msn.com)) or call 610.750.3998 to let him know of your interest by March 27th if you want to help.

#### **From Barb Shafer....**

#### **The First Defenders**

##### First Five Pennsylvania Companies

On the morning of the 12th of April 1861, the Executive of Pennsylvania received a telegram in these words: "The war is commenced. The batteries began firing at four o'clock this morning. Major Anderson replied, and a brisk cannonading commenced. This is reliable and has just come to the Associated Press. The vessels were not in sight."\* This startling intelligence, flashed along the lines of telegraph, across the Alleghenies, was soon heard in the remote corners of the Commonwealth. Threats and defiance from Southern leaders had long since ceased to intimidate; but, when they fired upon the Flag, its import could not be mistaken. It meant war.

Three days later on the 15th of April, the President of the United States issued his proclamation calling out the militia of the several States to the number of seventy-five thousand men. On the afternoon of the same day, the Secretary of War telegraphed to the Executive that a call had been made to Pennsylvania for sixteen regiments. Two regiments were wanted within three days. A sudden dash upon the Capital was already strongly threatened. The city was entirely unprotected and at the mercy of the assailants.

The President's call, accompanied by an appeal from the Executive, was telegraphed to every part of the Commonwealth urging men to come forward, in companies and squads, with all possible dispatch, to the defense of the imperiled Capital. Aside from the city of Philadelphia, there were few militia companies fully-armed and equipped; and of these, few contained even the minimum number of (32) men. As the intelligence of the appeal for men spread through the towns and villages of the interior, the officers of the few organized companies hastily called their men together and tendered their services to the Governor.

Among the first thus promptly to respond were :

Ringgold Light Artillery, Captain M'Knight, of Reading;  
Logan Guards, Captain Selheimer, of Lewistown;  
Washington Artillery, Captain Wren, of Pottsville;  
National Light Infantry, Captain M'Donald, of Pottsville; and  
Allen Rifles, Captain Yeager, of Allentown.

These pioneer companies, which had promptly marched to the Capital on the first alarm, and had been assigned to duty for its safety and protection.

#### **From Mike Straus...**

#### **Early Preservation**

Although the devastated woods and the remnants of original breastworks were, according to contemporary accounts, the primary attractions for visitors to the Culp's Hill

area during the early years after the battle, both photographers C.J. Tyson and P.S. & H.E. Weaver enhanced their extensive stereo coverage of that area by including a number of views depicting other subjects, especially the terrain along Rock Creek.

One of the most unique of these supplementary subjects was titled "Desecration of the Battle-Field of Gettysburg on Culp's Hill." Not only was the photograph the first to be produced specifically for the purpose of decrying commercial exploitations of Gettysburg, but as far as I (William Frassanito) am aware, it is the only 19th century scene known to have been photographed anywhere to specifically highlight the necessity for battlefield preservation.

Two primary rocks- one defaced by an ad for "Roger's Liverpills" and the other by an ad for "Hoofland's German Bitters" were depicted on large boulders on the line occupied during the battle by the 60th New York Infantry of Greene's Brigade. Hoofland's German Bitters were produced by a Philadelphia Company which advertised in the Gettysburg newspapers throughout much of the 1860's. In fact the local Stars and Banner was running a full-column ad for Hoofland's German Bitters at the very time of the battle.

While the Steven's Knoll portion of Culp's Hill was purchased by David McConaughy on behalf of the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association on April 4, 1864,--the main or upper portion of Culp's Hill--31 acres including much of the line of Greene's breastworks and the most devastated section of woods- was not successfully acquired by G.B.M.A. from Henry Culp until June 1, 1869.

David McConaughy, who was the principal founder of G.B.M.A., was particularly anxious to secure what he considered to be the most fragile and hence most threatened features of the battlefield, i.e., the manmade defenses. In November 1865, an outraged visitor to the field, George J. Gross wrote an article for the Philadelphia Press that:

"...the works thrown up by our men on Culp's Hill are still seen, except such portion of the timber as it is being removed by the owner of the ground. Only think of the meanness of the man who is engaged in pulling the monuments to pieces, and converting them to fire-wood ! I could not ascertain the name of the barbarian, else I would give it."

#### **Plan Now for the April Meeting**

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What a great honor he bestows upon us. Thank you, Ed. And, thank you to our Programs' Committee for the return of this incredible speaker. See the Programs & Events' page for additional information and to make your reservations.

#### **June 2011 Field Trip Stuart's Ride**

The bus will leave Wyomissing at 7:00 a.m. and pick up our guide Eric Wittenberg at the Gettysburg Visitor Center around 9:00 a.m. We will then head to Westminster, Maryland, where the full tour will begin. In Westminster, Stuart clashed with two companies of the 1st Delaware Cavalry on June 29, 1863. The historic location of Union Mills, Maryland, follows where Stuart's brigades camped that evening.

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Hampton clashed again with Kilpatrick's division at the small crossroads at Hunterstown. The tour concludes back at the Gettysburg Visitor Center.

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April 16-17

Bethlehem, PA - Civil War Encampment:

Downtown Bethlehem's Colonial Industrial Quarter marching, music, lectures, reenactments, and a parade - all part of Bethlehem's Civil War Living History Weekend. The event centers on the live encampment in the Colonial Industrial Quarter.

Beginning daily at 10 a.m. On-going displays and activities both days at Confederate Camp and other venues. For more information visit <http://www.historicbethlehem.org>.

April 29 - May 1

Bensalem, PA - 22nd Annual Neshaminy Civil War Reenactment:

Living History and Battle reenactment at Neshaminy State Park.

Portraying: the Battles of Bolivar Heights & Ball's Bluff - 'War on the Upper Potomac' October 1861:

Camps open 9 a.m. - Battles at 2 p.m. on Saturday and 1:30 p.m. Sunday

See troops drilling, mounted cavalry, artillery, Living history presentations, period music, sutlers tent village. Free admission to park and free parking. Near Street Road Exit of I-95. Visit <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/neshaminy.aspx>.

May 22 - Philadelphia, PA:

Gravesite placement of veterans' flags at Laurel Hill Cemetery

Meet at the gatehouse of Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue in



Philadelphia 215-228-8200 at 10 a.m. The group assembled will place US flags on the graves of veterans' of all wars. As time and manpower permit, the cemeteries to be covered include Laurel Hill, Mt. Moriah, Mt. Peace and St. James the Less. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. All welcome!

### **The Conspirator**

On February 17th, Joe Schaeffer, Errol Steffy, Lori Border and I traveled to Philadelphia to attend a private screening of Robert Redford's latest directorial project, ***The Conspirator***, which will be released on April 15th in selected theaters.

This film tells the story of Mary Surratt (played by Robin Wright) whose boardinghouse was a meeting place for John Wilkes Booth and his fellow conspirators of Lincoln's assassination. Surratt is reluctantly represented at a military trial by a young Union captain (James McAvoy). Individual rights suffered in post-Civil War Washington, and parallels are easy to see in the post 9/11 world of today. We had an opportunity for Q & A with one of the producers and the screen writer following the screening, and the writer spoke at length about this subject.

***The Conspirator*** is the first in a roster of historically based films to be produced by the American Film Company. The new company's mission is to produce historically accurate, Hollywood-quality films. All of us who attended would agree that that goal was met on this film. We recommend it highly.

Linda Zeiber

### **Reservations for the April 12, 2011 Meeting:**

**New Dinner Reservation Procedures:** If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for April include: Vegetable Stuffed Shells, Shrimp Stir Fry, and Yankee Pot Roast.

**The price is \$22.00 for meals. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection at 610.478.1717 no later than Monday, April 4, 2011, which is also the deadline for online reservations. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. This new phone number is Joe Schaeffer's business phone so we are asking you to be considerate about not calling until after 5:00 p.m.**

**\*NOTE\*** Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. 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.

### **2011 Program Schedule**

April 12, 2011: Edwin C. Bearss  
May 10, 2011: Joe Schaeffer

Events Leading Up to Fort Sumter  
Commander William B. Cushing and the  
Attack on the Albemarle

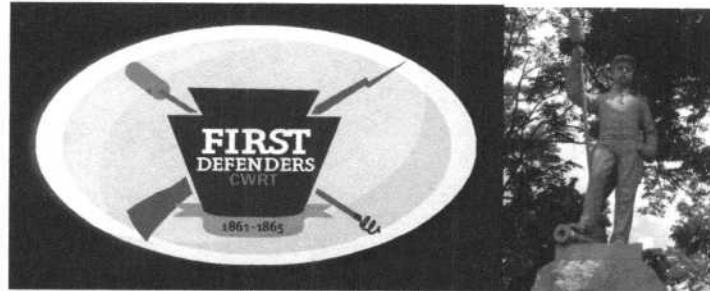
Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber at [zeibers@comcast.net](mailto:zeibers@comcast.net)





# **The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter**

**May 2011**



[www.firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwrt.us)



## **From the President**

These past few months, I have used the President's Message to give an overview and some perspective to events transpiring 150 years ago. This month is different. The month of May is election time in our Round Table, and I want to use my space to address said-election and speak of our organization. We are a democratic group, meaning that you have the right to nominate and vote for any member to any post on the board. At the May meeting, we will announce which board members are willing to offer their time to serve another year. You will then have a chance to nominate others, and we will have a vote. The board members, to a person, work very hard. I cannot thank them enough. No matter who is on the board, please give them all the support that you can and volunteer to help. We need help in many ways, such as Adopt-A-Position, book donations, speakers, finding outside speakers, information for the newsletter, and assisting the Reading Eagle for history relevant to Berks County citizens involved in the war. There are many more ways to help, especially during the 150th anniversary. We are on a good roll. Let us keep it going. Thanks. Joe

## **Round Table Business**

President Joe Schaeffer called the April meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with 110 members and guests in attendance. He reminded us all that it was a special night commemorating the bombing of Ft. Sumter which was discussed by Ed Bearss, the preeminent historian, who was our speaker for the evening.

Joe reminded everyone of the screening of *The Conspirator* which opened on April 15th. It is the story of Mary Surratt, accused conspirator in the Lincoln assassination, and her arrest, prosecution, and execution.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Lori Border reported that our treasury had \$3,349.80 as of March 8, 2011, with expenses of \$1,758.83. Receipts totaled \$1,796.00 leaving a balance of \$3,784.97. The preservation fund had \$1,259.00 and the trip fund had \$600.00 prior to the April meeting.

### **Preservation/Book Raffle**

Through ticket sales and donations, we added another \$243.00 to our preservation fund. That brings the total to \$1,492.00, an easy number to remember. We still have May to add to that total.

The members voted to send \$300.00 to Richmond Battlefield Association in the name of Ed Bearss, our featured April speaker. We will be able to help preservation significantly this year.

Tom Tate

### **Field Trip News**

There are still seats remaining for the June 11th field trip. If you have not committed and desire to do so, send \$75.00 to Joe Schaeffer, c/o Heartland Settlement Company, 55 Commerce Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610. Eric Wittenberg has reported that those in attendance will be getting off the bus 6 times during the day with a maximum amount of walking involved being about 2 blocks' worth. Any other questions about the trip will be answered by Dave Fox at 610.582.9245 or Roger Cotterill at 570.384.1274 ([fiatlux@shenhgts](mailto:fiatlux@shenhgts)).

The trip will be starting in the parking lot of Heartland Settlement Company at the address in the above paragraph. For those not familiar with the area, a map is attached to the broadcast email informing everyone of the posting of the newsletter. Hard copies of the maps will also be available at the May meeting.

### **Local Civil War Stories Wanted**

The *Reading Eagle* has and will be generating articles of national and local interest to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. We have been offering to help, and now they are taking us up on our offer. They are especially interested in tying in important events in the Civil War with a local flavor. If you have letters, diaries, stories, pictures, or anything which would be of interest, please contact John Forester, News Editor at 610-371-5011. If you feel you need help, contact me or another board member.

Joe Schaeffer

### **Adopt a Civil War Veteran**

Bob Troxel, a member of Zion Spies Lutheran Church, is working on a project which will place Ft. Sumter flags on the graves of Civil War vets buried at Zion Spies Cemetery in Alsace Township. You can sponsor a veteran for \$10 by having one of these flags placed on his grave. Call 610.779.7315 with questions. A form is attached to the broadcast email announcing the posting of the newsletter and will also be available in hard copy at the May meeting.

### **May Quiz: Popular Culture**

by Barbara Shafer

1. This book is one of Oprah's Picks and is currently being discussed, along with a study guide, in many book clubs. What is the title?
2. In 2010, there was an advertising campaign called Secret Formula and in 2011, there was a Twitter account created for the person who created the product. The account is currently active and, as of January 2011, has 21,656 followers. Name the product in the advertising campaign and/or the person of the Twitter account.

### **Gettysburg Work Day**

On Saturday, April 30, a group of volunteers from the First Defenders will be heading to Gettysburg to work on the 6th PA Cavalry Monument on Emmitsburg Road. We'll carpool from a local area, stop in Gettysburg for breakfast, and begin our work detail around 10:00 a.m. There are some Civil War events going on in the area that weekend, and we'll probably attend one or two after lunch before heading back home.

If you are interested in helping at this event, please contact Don Stripling (donstripling54@msn.com or call 610.750.3998) to let him know of your interest. The more, the merrier.

### **BGES and the "Wounded Warrior"**

The Blue and Gray Education Society (BGES) and its partner, the Yellow Ribbon Fund, provide free Civil War programs to disabled veterans to help them re-assimilate themselves into society after combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of these participants are amputees. BGES is seeking donations to provide scholarship assistance through their "Wounded Warrior" fundraiser. Donations can be sent to Special Projects Coordinator, ATTN: Len Riedel, PO Box 1176, Chatham, VA 24531-1176. Place "Yellow Ribbon" on the memo line of your check.

For more information, visit [www.blueandgrayeducations.org](http://www.blueandgrayeducations.org).

### **In Memoriam**

Round Table member Kay Reilly, husband of member Jim Reilly and sister-in-law of the late Tony Reilly, passed away April 11 after a long and courageous fight against lung cancer. Kay was the first person whom I met when I joined the Round Table 13 years ago. She and I shared a room on our field trip to Fredericksburg. A memorable highlight was recognizing Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich at the Visitors' Center and sending Jim and Tony into the men's room to introduce themselves! Newt ended up touring the battlefield with us that day since we had "booked" an excellent guide. She and I shared other "history adventures" over the ensuing years.

Kay was a warm, gracious person. I was grateful to count her as a friend over the years. Many of us will miss her smiling face at meetings.

Linda Zeiber

### **Civil War Conference at the Carlisle Army Heritage Center**

The US Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) is hosting a Civil War Photographic Conference, "Understanding War Through Imagery: The Civil War in American Memory." USAHEC will present this conference with the Army Heritage Center Foundation in conjunction with the CW sesquicentennial. The conference runs Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26, 2011 and concentrates on the events of the Civil War, early photography and photographic techniques and related history and research resources. This event's speakers include both established and new scholars, who will discuss a wide range of topics covering the Civil War and photography.

Please see the link on the "links tab" of our website for the conference brochure with detailed information about the events as well as the registration process:  
[http://www.carlisle.army.mil/AHEC/ahecfiles/Civil War Conference Brochure.pdf](http://www.carlisle.army.mil/AHEC/ahecfiles/Civil%20War%20Conference%20Brochure.pdf)

### **Experience the CW in Pennsylvania**

To commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War (2011-2015), Pennsylvania is planning a wide array of special events and programs across the state that will bring personal stories of the war to life, including traveling exhibits and a website.

Visit [www.pacivilwar150.com](http://www.pacivilwar150.com) to immerse yourself in the stories and join in the conversation about this pivotal era of our history.

April 29 - May 1

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<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/neshaminy.aspx>.

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## Brothers and Sisters

by Sergeant Jack Eubanks, USMC

This is my family, all proud warriors to my left and to my right,  
Steadfastly watching over our country from Arlington's heights.

By blood oath and sacred honor here we lie,  
Defending eternally, for here we never truly die.

We are an inviolable testament of what is right and true,  
We are solemn reminders of the cost after wars are through.

You can hear whispers in the breeze as you enter our gates,  
On gray etched stone you can see our fates.

We lie here reverently at a silent attention,  
Protecting this world still with our mortal extensions.

Cut short was our life,  
Cut short in the midst of immeasurable strife.

No complaints, we would not dare,  
For we are treated with exceptional care.

Here we have been laid to rest,  
Carried up these hills by our nation's best.

Mothers leave us flowers, and Marines leave us beer,  
Children whisper prayers, and wives leave us tears.

--Sgt. Eubanks was wounded in Iraq in 2007. He remains on active duty and is currently stationed in Washington, D.C.

Submitted by Errol Steffy in honor of Memorial Day



### **Photographer Needed**

We are looking for a member who would like to be the official round table photographer. This person would be responsible for taking photographs at round table meetings throughout the campaign as well as on the field trips. If you are interested and have your own equipment, contact Errol Steffy.

### **Reservations for the May 10, 2011 Meeting:**

**New Dinner Reservation Procedures:** If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for May include: **Pasta Primavera (vegetarian), Broiled Tilapia, Chicken Cordon Bleu.**

**The price is \$22.00 for meals. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection at 610.478.1717 no later than Monday, May 2, 2011, which is also the deadline for online reservations. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. This phone number is Joe Schaeffer's business phone so we are asking you to be considerate about not calling until after 5:00 p.m.**

**\*NOTE\*** Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. 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.

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Commander William B. Cushing and the  
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