

Sept 2006 - May 2007

# **THE FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**SEPTEMBER 2006**

### **ROUND TABLE BUSINESS**

The Newsletter puts forth a call to all members of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table to make plans to attend our September meeting that opens our tenth campaign. Your Board of Directors welcomes all members back to what we hope will be a great year. As our May meeting had no new nominations for any of our board positions we enter this tenth year with the same set of board members for the coming year.

This summer your Board of Directors were faced with some difficult choices regarding cost to maintain a strong financial picture for the Round Table. In order to continue in a sound financial position we will be increasing the annual membership dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00. This is the first increase in membership dues since our charter year. In addition we will also increase the meal cost from \$17.00 to \$18.00 per person. These were difficult decisions to make decisions that were well reviewed by the board and have been made in the best interest of our Round Table. More details regarding these decisions will be presented at the September meeting.

We have some good news regarding meal choices we will continue to offer three choices for each meeting. The Round Table has received a new menu from Moselem Springs called a Civic Organization Menu. This menu allows us to select from some nineteen choices, and offers the opportunity to present a variety of meal selections. As we have done in the past we will continue to provide a fish choice for each meeting.

We have a very fine organization and we want to keep it that way the board hopes these necessary changes will be supported by the membership.

Attached to the Newsletter is a membership Renewal Form for the coming year please "reenlist" we need good men and good women. We want to complete this renewal program by October 10, 2006. Any questions please speak with Pat Christ our membership chairwomen.

At our May meeting approval was provided to make a \$1,000.00 preservation gift to the Richmond Battlefield Association for some 40 acres of ground at the site of The Battle of Glendale fought during the Seven Days Battles. Approval of \$250.00 to Kernstown Battlefield Association was also provided for membership in this organization. I believe last years contributions totaled \$1,750.00 to preservation. May ticket sales of 146 provided \$146.00 for preservation. Hats off to Tom and Marilyn Tate for all their fine work on preservation.

More good news we have received a check for \$375.00 from Lehigh Cement Company, Evansville Plant as a civic gift to use toward the cost of printing and mailing the Newsletter. This is great news for the Round Table and we extend our sincerest appreciation to Lehigh Cement. We also extend a big thank you to fellow member Roger Cotterill for his efforts in working with Lehigh Cement in obtaining this fine gift.

Details on our program schedule for this coming campaign are still being worked on hopefully we can provide a full schedule by our October meeting. Speaking at our September meeting will be past president Dave Valuska he will talk on his recently co-authored book "The Damn Dutch." Dave's visit with us will present us the opportunity to thank Dave for his years as Round Table president and as the founder of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table.

## **OUR HISTORY TABLE**

At our May meeting Jack Gurney provided a Native American Pipe Axe used by frontier men, settlers and soldiers. The axe was also called a "bleeding heart" it was 2 pounds, 1 ounce and was used between 1700-1800. When not bleeding hearts or heads the axe was used as a smoking pipe. Jack also provided two Black Powder Horns, originals, from the same 1700-1800 time period. Thank you Mr. Gurney.

### **Trivia from the table:**

Famous American author, Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) spent less than a month serving in a Missouri Confederate unit.

Many foreign countries did not accept Confederate postage in mailings, to do so would have implied accepting the Confederacy as a sovereign nation.

A world figure, Pope Pius IX, sent a polite letter to Jefferson Davis, addressing him as "President of the Confederacy." I wonder if he got a reply with a Confederate stamp?

During the war the most commonly stolen item from civilians was fence rails that were used for campfires.

According to the records the Confederate Army had 642 Infantry Regiments serve during the war.

## **MAY PROGRAM REVIEW**

While the motion picture industry created the Western movie and many famous "cowboy" stars we at the First Defenders have our own Western Stars. Our May meeting completed our ninth campaign and we ended the year with a program presented by our two favorite Western Theater "Cowboys," Mike Gabriel and Ron Rhein. As they have done in past presentations on "Champion Hill," "The Emergence of Grant, Fort Henry and Fort Donelson," "Shiloh," "Chickamauga," our May meeting featured their presentation on "The Chattanooga Campaign." I believe all in attendance would agree that the word "stars" is appropriate in defining their presentation at the May meeting.

Utilizing a sizable map of the Chattanooga area Mike and Ron provided a detailed talk on the key factors and locations involved in the Chattanooga Campaign. This was not a presentation on a single battle such as their talk on Chickamauga. This talk covered battles at Brown's Ferry, Wauhatchie, Lookout Mountain, Orchard Knob and Missionary Ridge. The importance of the "Cracker Line" operation was reviewed and information on both Union and Confederate commanders and command strategy was an important part of their presentation.

Time and space does not permit a detailed review of this presentation, but we can comment on some aspects of this campaign. After a stunning Confederate victory, on September 20, 1863, at Chickamauga a despondent Union General William Rosecrans led an equally despondent Army of the Cumberland back to Chattanooga where they settled down as best they could and awaited their fate. General Bragg commanding the Confederate forces laid siege to the town by dispersing his army around the city with a primary position atop Missionary Ridge, east of Chattanooga. Bragg intended to starve the Union Army into submission and surrender. While Bragg seemed to have the upper hand after his victory at Chickamauga and now in possession of the high ground around the enemy, he did not have enough troops to completely circumvent the city, in effect the Union Army was never entirely surrounded or cut off from supplies and reinforcements. They were however, both men and animals on starvation rations. This was alleviated by the creation of the "cracker line," which kept the Union forces modestly supplied. For this line to be successful the Union had to drive the Confederates from Raccoon Mountain located west of both the City of Chattanooga and the Tennessee River. The fights at Brown's Ferry and Wauhatchie were factors in leading to the Union opening a shorter line of supply. The success of this line was the work of General W.F. "Baldy" Smith who was Chief Engineer of the Army of the Cumberland.

During this time frame General Grant took command of the newly created Military Division of Mississippi and went to Chattanooga on October 23, 1863 to take personal charge of the

situation and to restructure his forces. He relieved General Rosecrans as commander of the Army of the Cumberland and replaced him with General George Thomas. Authorities in Washington ordered sizable reinforcements, the XI and XII Corps under General Hooker and some 17,000 men from General Halleck in Memphis and Vicksburg. The opening of the "cracker line" for supplies and the additional troops shaped Grant's initial tactical moves in preparing to fight and defeat Bragg. Our speakers spoke of the importance of the railroads in Grant's plans. Repair of these roads and protecting them from cavalry strikes was a Grant priority. They were key to supplying troops in Chattanooga and transporting troops to Grant's command. The railroads were a considerable logistical problem and they had to be maintained.

On November 15, 1863 the Union forces were ready to fight their way out of the Confederate siege. With the Confederates spread out all over Missionary Ridge, Grant's basic strategy was to have General Sherman's forces attack the northern flank of Bragg's line on the Ridge, General Hooker to clear Lookout Mountain and then move to the southern end of Missionary Ridge. On November 23 General Thomas captured Orchard Knob in the center of Bragg's line and then feigned an attack at the center of Missionary Ridge to keep Bragg from reinforcing his flanks. The center of the Confederate line was considered impregnable. On November 24 General Hooker attacked and successfully cleared Lookout Mountain of Confederate forces. Hooker attacked with three divisions. Despite its legendary status as "the battle above the clouds," this battle was nothing more than a sideshow in the overall battle of the Chattanooga Campaign. However, it was important to Grant's strategy in this campaign and General Hooker and his forces did a good job in meeting their objective.

On November 25 the Battle of Missionary Ridge took place. General Sherman's attack on the Confederate right was stalled by forces commanded by General Patrick Cleburne but an attack on the center of the Confederate line exceeded expectations when Thomas's men took rifle pits at the base of the mountain and to escape a poor position continued up the mountain to great success and to the surprise of Grant and Thomas. General Hooker at this time was having success against the Confederate left. Bragg was soundly defeated in this battle and Chattanooga was lost to the Confederates a severe blow to the dying Confederate cause. Bragg withdrew to Dalton, Georgia and to his credit requested he be dismissed as commander. The Chattanooga Campaign was over the Atlanta Campaign was about to begin. A quick note on casualties Union losses 5,824 Confederate losses 6,667.

The Round Table must again extend a sincere thank you to our two "Western Stars" for this great presentation on the Chattanooga Campaign. And I'm sure we all consider you both as our favorite "cowboys."

### **FIELD TRIP REVIEW**

It was a bright cool morning on June 10 as 41 members and guest boarded the bus for our field trip to Gettysburg. Arriving a bit past 9AM at the Visitor Center we picked up our guide, Blake Chambers, who would guide us on our day at Gettysburg. Visiting the Gettysburg Battle field and not stopping at the locations of Pickett's Charge, the Wheatfield, Peach Orchard and the Round Tops seemed like something was missing, but we had a full and information packed day of the sites of our visit. Mr. Chambers provided interesting commentary regarding the sites we visited sites that many visitors to the area do not get to see.

Gettysburg, like all great battles was in fact a series of related events, events that together composed the Battle of Gettysburg and individually are as famous as the battle itself. Of all the events or episodes that have consistently been overlooked by students of this battle and by visitors to the battlefield the attacks upon and defense of Culp's Hill may well be at the top of the list. It is difficult to account for this fact. Culp's Hill was vital to the Union position, it dominated Cemetery Hill, was key as the anchor of the Union right protecting the Baltimore Pike which was the Union's principal line of communication and supply. Overlooked perhaps, but the fight for



Culp's Hill had a major impact on the outcome of this great battle for both Union and Confederacy.

Our first stop was at Spangler's Spring where our guide gave us an orientation of the area pointing out the closeness of this point to the Baltimore Pike and the fact that this point represented the right flank of the Federal Army at Gettysburg. We made two other stops on Culp's Hill the first in the area of Pardee Field where most of the fight on Culp's Hill took place. At the time of the battle Pardee Field was called Lower Culp's Hill it was named Pardee Field after Union Lt. Colonel Ario Pardee Jr. who commanded the 147<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment that defended the field along with the 5<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry Regiment. Union forces of the 12<sup>th</sup> Corps plus units from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Corps were attacked on July 2 and 3 by General Ewell's 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps Division commanded by Major General Edward Johnson, Johnson attacked with 36 regiments some 5,000 men. Brigadier General John Geary's 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of the 12<sup>th</sup> Corp's held the area of Pardee Field hit hardest by the Confederate attack. Our guide pointed to a number of sites defended by Union forces and we stood at a point identified as the "traverse," a breastwork that little was known about, has no specific description and no traces of it remain. This traverse played an important role in the Union defense during the battle. Pardee Field was also the site where General Johnson's final attack took place on July 3.

A stop at the crest of Culp's Hill was highlighted by the statue of Brigadier General George S. Greene commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of Geary's Division General Greene, stated our guide, probably saved Culp's Hill with his work on the night of July 2 by effectively positioning his force to fight against superior Confederate forces. General Greene received considerable praise from our guide for his leadership on Culp's Hill on both July 2 and 3. The fight for Culp's Hill saw some 1,823 Confederate casualties and 1,082 Union. The Union victory on Culp's Hill proved the old infantry axiom of taking the high ground and holding it. The high ground and General Greene's leadership were key to Union success in this part of the Gettysburg battlefield.

Leaving Culp's Hill we went to East Cemetery Hill where our guide reviewed the fight for this position. After ordering General Johnson to the attack on Culp's Hill, Ewell turned his attention to General Early's and Rodes Divisions and the assault against Cemetery Hill. Early was to attack East Cemetery Hill and Rodes the western side of Cemetery Hill. Success for these two attacks looked good. Standing on East Cemetery Hill our guide pointed to the direction of the Confederate attack and the Union defense positions. Early's attack came over what then was open fields and came in full view of Union artillery on Cemetery Hill. Despite a strong defense the Confederates came up the slopes of the hill and into the Union lines and cannons of Ricketts and Wiedrich's Batteries. Union reinforcements arrived at East Cemetery Hill and the Confederates were forced back but not without a tough fight. Rodes attack to the west went nowhere and the hill was held. As we walked along the site of the battle our guide noted a Confederate victory on this hill could have broke the Union Army's back, but poor co-operation plagued Ewell's Corps. The site we visited here was across the Baltimore Pike at the location of the Gate House to the National Cemetery.

Our final stop on the tour at Gettysburg took us to the East Cavalry Battlefield. As Pickett's charge unfolded along Cemetery Ridge, cavalry forces clashed some three miles east of Gettysburg in a bitter fight that could have changed the course of this great battle. Around noon on July 3 General Jeb Stuart deployed four cavalry brigades, some 6,300 men, with the intent on pushing westward across open fields and into the rear of the Union Army again in the area of the Baltimore Pike. Along the Hanover Road Federal Cavalry under General David M. Gregg, some 4,500 troopers, blocked Stuart's path. Through charge and countercharge Stuart's columns became vulnerable to Union artillery and frontal and flank attacks. After three hours of fighting Gregg's tactics prevented Stuart from breaking through to the Union rear. General George Custer played an important role in Union success in this battle by his leadership and courage. We noted on our visit that this battlefield covered a sizable area and was well suited to a cavalry fight. This



ended our Gettysburg tour. With our thanks to our guide we left for our final stop at Hanover, Pennsylvania.

At Hanover we had a guide, Larry Wallace, who led us on a short walking tour with comments on a cavalry fight that took place at Hanover prior to the Battle of Gettysburg. A back and forth fight in the center of the town that ended with a Confederate retreat. We finished our day with dinner at the McAllister Inn then headed home. A full day and a fine tour of Culp's Hill and East Cemetery Hill proved there is much more to see in Gettysburg than the famous charge. Our thanks to Dave Fox and Roger Cotterill for their good work in putting this tour together.

### **DID YOU KNOW**

#### **THE OTHER FIRST LADY**

Varina Howell Davis was born on May 7, 1826 in the State of Mississippi. She was the daughter of a slave-owning merchant William Howell and Margaret Kempe Howell. Varina received an excellent education for a woman of her era. She attended an elite female academy in Philadelphia and had a private tutor at home. By the time she met her future husband, Jefferson Davis, at a Christmas party in 1843 at age 17 she was articulate, well read, a spirited young woman, hardly the then stereotypical southern belle.

Davis was 17 years her senior, considered handsome and very rich. He owned many slaves and a large plantation in Mississippi, and Miss Howell found him attractive, despite what she called his arrogant demeanor. Davis a lonely widower was ready to marry again. The couple fell in love, but had a stormy courtship. After several misunderstandings they became engaged and married on February 26, 1845. The marriage was not tranquil. The couple lived near Davis's brother Joseph who controlled the family fortune, including Davis's property. Mrs. Davis discovered her brother-in-law composed a will preventing her from inheriting her husband's estate. When she protested this inequity her husband told her to accept the situation. Hurt by his reaction things got worse when he left to fight in the Mexican-American war without informing her he was going.

Jefferson Davis returned home in 1847 and was appointed to the United States Senate upset and angry with his wife over a number of issues he left her in Mississippi for almost a year when he went to Washington. Davis was a very traditional, conventional man, and he expected his wife to do as she was told. Somehow the couple managed to make peace and Mrs. Davis moved to Washington where she lived for most of the next twelve years. Varina enjoyed life in the capitol immensely and made many friends including Mary Chestnut, the now-famous Civil War diarist. As their marriage improved their first child was born in 1852, and she later gave birth to five more children. Even with the children the Davis relationship had problems over household matters such as travel and finances and she had not forgiven brother Joseph for cutting her out of the family fortune.

Mrs. Davis was alarmed by the secession crisis and the talk of war she did not want to leave Washington, she confided to friends and family she did not believe the South had the resources to fight and win a long war. When her husband became the Confederate president, she did her duty and went to Richmond with him. Varina became a controversial figure, there where those who did not believe she was a Confederate patriot and her witty learned manner put off members of local society. Her intelligence had many believe she manipulated her husband. In truth she had little influence over him, he made his own political and military decisions. When the war ended she was very happy telling a friend the last four years had been the worst of her life.

Following the war her husband was charged with treason and spent two years at Fort Monroe, Virginia, in prison. When he was released the family was at the brink of destitution. Davis failed to make a living with business ventures in England and the United States. The family lived off the quiet charitable donations of friends plus Varina's part time work as a seamstress. As her husband aged, she gradually took over the management of the family's affairs. When her husband died in

December 1889, Varina wrote a monumental memoir of her husband, much of which blatantly contradicted the reality of her married life with him.

Mrs. Davis then astonished her contemporaries by moving to New York City, where she lived for the rest of her life. She worked at a literary career and had some success with articles in the New York World and other publications. As was the case in Washington she made friends from all parts of the country, including the widowed Julia Dent Grant. The life of the other first lady ended on October 16, 1906. Frederick Grant, son of Ulysses S. Grant, organized a memorial service in her honor in New York. She was buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond beside her husband, having outlived him and five of her six children. In her life Mrs. Varina Howell Davis was certainly a lot more than just "the other first lady."

### **CIVIL WAR USAGE**

**KILL RATIO**—The percentage of enemy dead compared to the original body of soldiers engaged. All published kill ratios were loose estimates and the ratio was nearly always low.

**THOSE PEOPLE**—Robert E. Lee's usual reference to Union soldiers and northern citizens. Very common words of the general often found in history writings of the war

**NO QUARTER**—A condition under which prisoners were not to be taken, at times both sides accepted this stipulation but seldom acknowledged that fact.

**BLIZZARD**—A long and heavy volley of musket, rifle or canister fire.

**MASTER**—a noncommissioned Navy officer between a "passed" Midshipman and a Lieutenant, also known as a Master's Mate.

### **SEPYEMBER QUIZ**

**Q.1** Webster identifies a campaign as a series of military operations with a particular objective in a war. In the American Civil War there were numerous military operations identified as campaigns. This question asks you to identify the largest campaign of the Civil War?

**Q.2** In 1865 the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution was passed it outlawed slavery and Involuntary Servitude. In February and early March of 1861 the Congress passed a constitutional amendment called the Corwin Amendment that would have become the Thirteenth Amendment if it had been ratified by the states. What was the intent of this Corwin Amendment?

**Q.3** "On to Richmond" probably the Union's first great battle cry. Who introduced this statement to the public and how was it introduced?

### **SEPTEMBER MEETING**

We open our tenth campaign with our September meeting on **Tuesday September 12, 2006**. Meeting time is **6:30PM**, at the Moselem Springs Inn. We request dinner reservations be made by our cutoff date **Monday September 4, 2006**. Please call **610-683-4384** for reservations and call after 5PM or on weekends. Our menu for the September meeting will be a choice of **Broiled Haddock, Grilled Boneless Pork Loin and Hawaiian Chicken**. Dinner cost for the meeting will be at our **new dinner rate \$18.00**.

A new campaign is also a new beginning let's get off to a good start by making the first meeting of this campaign. We look forward to seeing old friends come this September and hopefully some new ones.

### **PLEASE REMEMBER RENEWAL FORMS ATTACHED**

Tony Reilly Newsletter Editor  
610-921-3131

# **THE FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**OCTOBER 2006**

### **ROUND TABLE BUSINESS**

On Tuesday September 12 we opened our tenth year with 64 members and guest in attendance. Following the pledge to our flag we stood for a moment of silence in honor of our fellow Americans who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

President Mike Gabriel reviewed the financial concerns we had and the steps the Board of Directors recommended to allow us to maintain a sound financial climate for the Round Table.

Rich Kennedy presented a review of issues discussed at the July 18 board meeting. Many of these issues were noted in the September Newsletter. Comments were provided on our June field trip to Gettysburg and information given on possible sites for the 2007 field trip. Fredericksburg, Lexington and the Shenandoah Valley are all under consideration. A trip to Lexington, Virginia would require a four or five hour bus trip and could be combined with some stops in the Shenandoah Valley. More information on our next field trip will be provided at future meetings.

Information on our program schedule for this year was reviewed. Our Christmas meeting will present Charlie Zahn who has frequented many round tables with his music and singing. This meeting will have a \$20.00 dinner and program charge. We do not plan to serve hors d'oeuvres this year. January's program, our annual Round Table discussion, was reviewed a discussion on the capabilities of Lincoln and Davis as military strategist will probably be the topic. Stay tuned more to come at future meetings.

Membership chairwoman Pat Christ advised the members present we have 52 renewals as of our September meeting. As our membership count from last May was 107 members we need membership cooperation to reenlist by our October 10, 2006 date. Pat identified two new members who were attending the September meeting and introduced them to the Round Table. The Round Table extends a very big welcome to both of you gentlemen, Mr. Robert Miller and Mr. Dale Beitzel. Additional information on renewal on last page of newsletter, please review.

Arlan Christ provided this treasurer's report. Balance as of May 9, 2006 \$3,899.66, new income \$2,477.00, new expenses \$4,529.91 providing a balance as of September 12, 2006 of \$1,846.75. \$105.00 of the balance is in the preservation fund. This report does not include income and expenses for our September meeting.

Mike Gabriel extended the Round Table's sincere thanks to Lehigh Cement for their fine civic gift of \$375.00 to our organization.

The First Defenders desire to honor past president Dave Valuska had to be postponed as Dave had a family emergency and was forced to cancel his visit with us. As Dave was to be our featured speaker of the evening his presentation on the "Damn Dutch" also was postponed. Hopefully a future date can be arranged to have Dave back.

### **OUR HISTORY TABLE**

Jack Gurney provided a notable item for our review a Sharps 1852 Slanting Breech Carbine, Cal 52 utilizing a linen cartridge. The weapon had a length of 37.75 inches and weighed 7.25 pounds. Made by Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company, Hartford, Connecticut some 5,000 of these carbines were made. Jack noted the weapon he had was made as number 3,001. This



weapon was considered the strongest and most accurate of any available at the time. It was a favorite of Buffalo Hunters. Sharps was in business until 1881 when it closed its doors.

#### Trivia from the Table

Robert E. Lee's famous horse Traveller was originally named Jeff Davis. Lee renamed the horse after he purchased it for \$200.00.

Abraham Lincoln was the first American president to wear a beard. He started a trend for eight of the next nine presidents also had beards. William McKinley was the only one of the nine who was clean shaven.

General "Stonewall" Jackson drew his sword so infrequently that it actually rusted in its scabbard.

On March 13, 1865 Jefferson Davis signed a bill allowing blacks to join the Confederate Army. Those who did so would be freed. Few took up his offer.

#### **PRESERVATION/BOOK RAFFLE**

Tom Tate reported we began the new season by raising \$141.00 for preservation. Fifteen dollars of this money came from direct donations from members and \$126.00 from raffle ticket sales. We entered this season with a carry-over of \$105.00 so are preservation total is \$246.00. There is a great demand for battlefield support at this time at our September meeting we voted to commit \$200.00 to support Civil War Preservation Trust "Kentucky Campaign." This campaign will save 454 acres at two battlefields, Perryville and Richmond both sites in Kentucky. Each dollar committed to this campaign will be multiplied by \$12.30 this makes our Round Table contribution \$2,460.00. Tom noted that he was not sure of our total commitment and our contribution may have been \$250.00. We should clarify this figure by our October meeting. In addition Tom advised two members made personnel contribution of \$50.00 each that would be added to our Round Table gift. Again hopefully we will clear this issue at our next meeting. Whatever figure we finalize it will be a great start for preservation in this campaign. Thanks to everyone for your participation is this worthy program.

#### **SEPTEMBER PROGRAM REVIEW**

With our speaker Dave Valuska unable to attend fellow member Tom Tate stepped in and presented a talk on the Trent Affair. While not a leading topic of discussion on the American Civil War this most serious diplomatic crisis associated with the Civil War, the Trent Affair symbolized the tensions in Anglo-American relations caused by the blockade of the South.

President Davis, dissatisfied with his present European envoys replaced them with two former U.S. Senators, James Mason and John Slidell. Veterans of Southern politics, Davis hoped their appointment would make the European powers more receptive to dealings and recognition of the Confederacy. In making these changes the South set in motion a series of events that almost brought Anglo-American relations to a rupture.

With no direct sea transport to England Mason and Slidell sailed from Charleston on October 12, 1861 aboard the "Theodora" successfully running the blockade in order to reach Havana, Cuba. At Havana, they booked passage for London under the neutral flag of the British mail steamer "Trent."

With the U.S. Navy embarrassed by its failure to intercept the envoys' ship before it reached Havana Captain Charles Wilkes, a forty-year veteran now commanding the U.S.S. San Jacinto, decided to redeem the navy's reputation. Wilkes was headstrong, hotheaded, temperamental and not well liked. Sailing in the Cuban waters Wilkes entertained the idea of capturing Mason and Slidell and he consulted various works on international law, finding no precedents and cautioned by his first officer he brushed aside these factors and decided to await and intercept the Trent. On November 8, 1861 he stopped the Trent boarded her arrested the Confederate envoys and seized the Trent as a prize of war. However, after some confusion and words of wisdom from Wilkes first officer the Trent was sent on its way and Wilkes took his captives to Boston on November 24, 1861.

The northern public greeted Wilkes act with applause. The House of Representatives passed a resolution lauding Captain Wilkes. However, after a flush of jubilation reality set in for few expected Britain to take this lying down. The British were angry, no outraged, and fears of an ugly confrontation began to arise. The South was happy they saw a probable end to the blockade and British presence in strength on the Canadian boarder. With the threat of war at hand cooler heads and minds began to look at the potential problems of another war. Diplomatic hints from London that a face saving compromise would be acceptable to the British Lincoln and his cabinet concluded that they had no choice but to release Mason and Slidell. On January 1, 1862 the Confederate envoys resumed their interrupted trip to Europe where they never again came so close to winning foreign recognition and intervention as they had done by being captured by Captain Wilkes actions.

For the Confederates, the affair turned into a distinct setback not being able to gain the concrete British help they had hoped to gain. For the United States preventing British involvement avoided what would have been a grievous blow to the Federal war effort and greatly diminished the South's chances of survival.

Our speaker Tom Tate did a fine job of stepping in at a late hour and providing us with a program on a significant diplomatic crisis during the American Civil War. Our thanks to Tom for a successful "pinch-hitting" appearance he was surly a big hit.

### **DID YOU KNOW**

#### **A CODE OF CONDUCT**

General Orders, No. 100, also know as Lieber's Code, established a code of conduct for the Federal Army toward the Confederacy's army and its civilians. This code written primarily by Frances Lieber would prove to be very resilient for it remained the policy of American soldiers in the field during wartime into the twentieth century and continued to influence similar policies in the future. Several European nations subsequently adopted the code as their own and the code had a strong influence on The Hague and Geneva conventions.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, the Federal military found existing articles of war insufficient for dealing with the issues raised by the conflict, particularly in regard to prisoners and exchanges, guerrilla warfare, and the treatment of civilians in occupied territory. Francis Lieber, a Prussian immigrant, was a scholar of international law and a staunch Unionist. His interest in these issues led to essays for newspapers and lectures concerning various aspects of war and international law regarding the existing strife. He had a personal side to the war for his three sons all participated, two for the Federals in blue and one in Confederate gray. His Confederate son was killed at the Battle of Williamsburg in 1862.

While visiting a son wounded at Fort Donelson Lieber met with Henry Halleck and at Halleck's request wrote his thoughts on guerrilla warfare and the appropriate measures to use in response to this type of warfare. The finished document "Guerrilla Parties Considered with Reference to the Laws and Usage of War" was sent to officers in the field to be used as guidelines for treatment of guerrillas.

Lieber then turned to broader issues related to the war. He worked with a committee to prepare "a set of rules and definitions" to guide Federal Army policy when the Articles of War were silent. Lieber worked with four general officers but the resulting code with few exceptions came from Lieber's pen. On April 24, 1863 General Orders No.100, comprising ten sections and 157 individual articles were issued by the War Department. This code became the general policy for soldiers in the field. Much of the code dealt with enemy combatants. It addressed matters related to prisoners and exchanges, flags of truce, treatment of wounded, partisans and guerrillas and others. Lieber's code identified the war as a rebellion, a war between the legitimate government and portions of the same who seek to throw off their allegiance to that government to set up a government of their own. These terms would allow the "legitimate government" to try "Leaders of the rebellion or chief rebels for high treason."

The code also stated civilians of the Confederate States were still subject to Federal Law. There were three civilian categories, those who remained loyal to the government, those who sympathized with but did not positively aid the rebellion, and those who "without taking up arms, gave positive aid and comfort to the rebellious enemy without being forced to do so." Each of these groups were treated accordingly. Ambiguity in the code allowed officers in the field considerable latitude in handling civilians; which was often harsh. Confederate authorities attacked the code as propaganda and unfair to civilians. Never the less, Mr. Lieber's code, General Orders, No. 100, stood the test of time in the Civil War and as stated previously into the Twentieth century.

### **CIVIL WAR USAGE**

**CONTRABAND**—(1) Goods deemed to benefit an opponent and therefore subject to seizure. (2) A runaway slave a term applied to fugitive slaves by Confederate officials.

**HUNDRED-DAY MEN**—Soldiers who enlisted for no fewer and no more than 100 days of service in the Federal Army. Used in Pennsylvania to help repel an expected Confederate invasion of the state in 1862.

**FRENCH LEAVE**—Being absent without leave but with the supposed intention of returning to duty.

**BATTLE CRY**—Any distinctive sound, word, or phrase chanted loudly and repeatedly to intimidate the enemy. Such as the famous "Rebel Yell."

**MANEUVER**—A movement carefully planned and executed flawlessly.

### **OCTOBER QUIZ**

**Q.1** Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston moved his forces by railroad to Manassas Junction for the first Battle of Bull Run in July 1861. What was the historical significance of this troop movement by rail?

**Q.2** Who was the last Confederate West Point graduate to die during the war?

**Q.3** This Union General is credited with creating Memorial Day. Name this Federal General officer?

### **OCTOBER MEETING**

Make plans to attend our October meeting on **Tuesday October 10, 2006**. Meeting time is **6:30PM** at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Please make your dinner reservations by our cutoff date **Monday October 2, 2006**. Please call **610-683-4384** for reservations and call after 5pm or call on the weekend. Our menu for the October meeting will be a choice of **Grilled Honey Mustard Salmon, Baked Homestyle Meatloaf & Gravy and Baked Ham Steak with Thompson Grape Glaze**. Dinner cost for the meeting will be **\$18.00**.

Our speaker for this meeting will be Colonel Ron Dalessandro from Carlisle Army Education and Heritage Center. The evening topic Army Staffs during the Civil War, this program should provide incite on a subject we do not hear or read a great deal about.

**One last reminder, please get your renewal forms into Pat Christ so she can finalize our membership roster by our October 10 date this is an important request by Pat. Only current members of the Round Table will be receiving newsletters. Payment of dues can be mailed to Pat Christ, 332 W. Main Street, Kutztown, Pa. 19530 in the amount of \$20.00. Checks should be made payable to "The First Defenders CWRT." Thank you for your cooperation!**

September was a fine start to our new campaign plan to attend the October meeting. We look forward to a good turnout and to seeing everyone.

Tony Reilly Newsletter Editor  
610-921-3131



# **THE FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**NOVEMBER 2006**

### **ROUND TABLE BUSINESS**

Attendance at our October meeting was 57 members and guest. Mike Gabriel opened a brief business meeting with a request to Dave Fox for a trip update for next year's field trip. Dave reported Lexington, Virginia will probably be the site we visit. The dates for the field trip will soon be finalized. Dave indicated they should be some two weeks after Memorial Day. Members voted a Saturday and Sunday trip would be preferred over a Friday and Saturday trip. Much more to come on the field trip so stay tuned.

Russell Angstadt reported on a preservation issue at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Russell's comments and information are reviewed in the Book Raffle/Preservation section of this newsletter.

A treasurer's report provided a balance as of 9-12-06 of \$1,846.75, new income \$2,519.00, new expenses \$1,419.09 providing a balance as of 10-10-06 of \$2,946.66.

### **OUR HISTORY TABLE**

Our man Jack Gurney provided an 1810 Derringer Flintlock belt pistol. The handgun had a walnut stock was 71 caliber with a 4½ inch Damascus barrel that had seven rifled grooves. The unit weighed 1½ pounds was American made and had a swivel type steel ramrod for cleaning. Jack noted that at 71 caliber and with the rifled grooves this small weapon packed a strong punch.

#### **Trivia from the Table**

Union General Ambrose Burnside was the most liked Union general officer by Confederate men he was viewed as an affable "good ole boy" that most Confederate generals hated to fight.

Nashville, Tennessee was the first major southern city to be permanently occupied by Union troops.

The artillery duel between Union and Confederate forces on the third day at Gettysburg was so loud it was heard as far away as Pittsburgh.

Lieutenant David H. Todd, commandant of the Confederate Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia was the half brother of Mary Todd Lincoln.

### **PRESERVATION/BOOK RAFFLE**

October book raffle sales raised \$133.00 for battlefield preservation. Tom Tate reports our \$200.00 contribution to CWPT for Perryville and Richmond, Kentucky, at a \$12.00 to \$1 ratio provided a \$2400.00 start to this year's preservation gifts. Our present preservation fund total, including October sales, stands at \$179.00.

Russ Angstadt spoke to members regarding the illegal action taken by developers at Harpers Ferry in digging a long trench on preservation property. A water and sewer pipe trench was cut into School House Lane, a site we recently visited on a field trip, without proper authority. CWPT is working to resolve this reckless action and to prevent future invasions of other sites by other developers. If and when additional information on this issue becomes available we will bring it to the members attention. Our thanks to Russ for providing this information to the Round Table.

### **OCTOBER PROGRAM REVIEW**

For the second month in a row our scheduled speaker and program had to be cancelled due to our speaker, Colonel Ron Dalessandro from Carlisle Army Education and Heritage Center,

receiving a military order preventing his appearance and the topic for the evening "Army Staffs During the Civil War" was lost to us. Hopefully a rescheduling of this program and speaker can be arranged for a future date.

Our replacement speaker and program for our meeting was Mr. Roger S. Durham, Director of the U.S. Army Heritage Museum, and his presentation the story behind his new book titled, I believe, "High Seas and the Yankee Gun Boats."

Unfortunately the notes I took during Mr. Durham's presentation I wrongfully discarded and did not realize this error until I began to prepare the review for the newsletter. Therefore I begin this review with an apology and state honestly this review will be somewhat limited. Mr. Durham's talk was if fact, as I previously noted, the story behind his book and the research he put forth to write his book. He reviewed in detail his research efforts and the locations he visited to obtain as much information as possible for the book. It would be fair to note that a diary of a James Dixon, a sailor on a Blockade Runner, provided a good amount of the information that kept Mr. Durham on his quest. Dixon's diary addressed the trials of working and sailing on a Confederate Blockade Runner. Our speaker presented a number of comments, presented by Dixon himself, from this diary that provided both a serious and lighthearted view of serving on a Blockade Runner. These comments, as I recall, were favorably received by the listening audience. Our speaker noted the numerous locations he visited from Nova Scotia in the north to points along the Atlantic coast in the south of the United States.

I do recall three points our speaker made that may well have sustained his interest in continuing to research his book. He noted getting to know the people and places he visited because of the Dixon diary opened a window to another time for him. He stated his interest in personal views of small items in Civil War history was a factor in continuing his research and he made a point in his presentation of stating his story, the story he discovered by his research, had no impact whatsoever on the Civil War. I conclude by suggesting that the best possible review of our speaker's presentation would be to purchase his book, that I am sure would provide a perfect review.

The Round Table thanks Roger S. Durham for his story and presentation to us for being our second straight successful "pinch hitter."

### **DID YOU KNOW**

#### **STRATEGIC SUPPLY OF CIVIL WAR ARMIES**

The strategic supply of Civil War armies was as important to victory as victory on the battlefield. The Civil War spawned armies the size of which had never been seen before in this country. The conflict involved movement of men and materials on a scale not experienced on our national landscape. This movement set two factors into play, the expenditure of energy and the constant change in the locations of armies. These two issues had a major impact on the provision of supplies, especially as it related to food. An army, any army, could not long function without food or its very existence would be threatened. Weapons and ammunition are expended only in battle clothing and shelter can be ignored for reasonable periods of time under variable conditions. However, rations must be provided often in substantial and nutritious amounts. If this does not happen an army will cease to perform through loss of discipline, energy and moral.

There were only two basic methods for feeding an army prior to the twentieth century; foraging or the utilization of depots. An army was either charged with locating foodstuffs within the area it occupied or it had to live off its lines of communication utilizing storage and disbursement facilities. It must be stated that these two basic methods are not exclusive to each other and often existed together. Foraging, a procedure that required a soldier or a detail of soldiers to search out provender from the local countryside is far less efficient than the depot system in certainty of supply. Foraging was dependent upon the density of population of an area in most cases it accumulated food supplies in direct proportion to an areas population. Other factors effecting foraging were the type of country being occupied or traversed; the friendship of

the inhabitants; the speed of the foraging army and, finally, by the proximity of the enemy's forces. Area occupied or traversed and friendliness address themselves as how they may effect foraging. Of the other two factors speed determines the effectiveness of foraging since an area can only provide so much forage before it is exhausted. The closeness of the enemy creates the potential for battle, therefore limiting the ability to forage. At this point, a depot system becomes imperative.

The depot system rises and falls on one key element, secure and efficient lines of communication between the army, its depot, and back to its main base or source of supplies. That is the locations that serve the depot. A depot then, by its very nature, must have these lines of communications strongly secured to these points or it loses its effectiveness. The depot must constantly be replenished because it is continually being drained by the needs and demands of the army it supports. The depot at City Point that supplied the Army of the Potomac in 1864 and 1865 was an enormous facility with tremendous capacity and is a prime example of what we speak of. The Confederate Army fighting mostly on its home ground had no need for a depot such as City Point. The primary method of supply to depots, then to armies, was by water, rail and overland wagons. Water transportation, well utilized by the North, was most efficient whether the supplies moved on the open ocean or on inland rivers. Control of the water lanes, both ocean and rivers, was a key in Northern successes. Without water the railroad, and its great carrying capacity was probably the optimal method of supply to depots and armies. The Civil War was the first in which railroads were used to great effect both tactically and strategically. Mastery of railroad operations and sea control was an important factor in Northern victory. However, it must be kept in mind, while the South made little impact on naval supply routes of the North, railroads were vulnerable to temporary disruption through enemy action. At this the South was very successful. A factor in favor of Confederate rail transportation was that, in most cases, it extended through friendly territory and did not require the same protection and vigilance the North had to provide in securing its rail lines. The North had to provide a massive distribution of troops to provide protection for its rail communications.

Our final method of supply, overland wagons, primarily came into play when an established depot was required to distribute supplies to the troops in the field. This became something of a mathematical formula. What was the number of wagons, animals and personnel needed to get to a given location? What were the road conditions, the distance to travel and weather conditions? How many hills, rivers, bridges needed to be negotiated? And two important factors, the enemy in the area and the need to carry 40 pounds of fodder per day for each animal in the wagon train. The need for fodder and the pulling distance had much effect on the animals well being. Overland wagons had an important role, but required much attention to detail for maximum success.

By combining water, railroad and wagon transport the Civil War supply effort was able to develop to such a level that it was able to feed enormous armies engaged in one of the greatest wars in man's history. If we take a moment to think of what was accomplished by both North and South in the Civil War in the strategic arena of supply in the period 1861 to 1865 we can all believe this to have been an "unbelievable accomplishment."

### **CIVIL WAR USAGE**

**GENERAL CALL**---Sounded by fife and drum, this signal alerted encamped troops to strike their tents and get ready for combat.

**SMALL DEER**---A term for rats eaten by prisoners of war and citizens under siege. During the siege of Vicksburg, several Southerners observed that Small Deer were just as tasty as normal deer.

**HOWITZER**---An artillery piece developed in the Netherlands in the early eighteenth century. The majority were made of bronze and manufactured in three standard sizes designed to throw charges of 12, 24 or 32 pounds. The howitzer's short tube was chambered which allowed a small charge to lob a shell considerable distance. An effective anti-personnel and siege weapon.



**TROOP**---Early in the war, this referred to a company of cavalry, but overtime it came to be a general designation for horse soldiers.

**BIG TICKET**---A document certifying a soldier's honorable discharge from Federal service.

### **NOVEMBER QUIZ**

**Q.1** Early in the war this Federal officer was appointed Chief of Staff in the Army of the Potomac, making him the first officer in American military history to officially hold the title of Chief of Staff. Can you identify this officer?

**Q.2** He was the highest ranking Native American officer in the Union Army. A full-blooded Seneca and the son of a Seneca Chief, he was born on a tribal reservation in New York State. Can you name this Union officer?

**Q.3** He was from Tennessee, he attended Princeton University and in 1846 graduated from the United States Naval Academy. He was destined to be the only American officer to achieve the ranks of Major General in the Army and Rear Admiral in the Navy. Name this officer?

### **NOVEMBER MEETING**

Our November meeting will be on **Tuesday November 14, 2006**. Meeting time will be at **6:30PM** at the Moselem Springs Inn. Please make dinner reservation by **Monday November 6, 2006** our cutoff date. Call **610-683-4384** for reservations call after 5PM on weekdays or call on the weekend.

The menu for our November meeting will be **Pork Chops with Gravy, Broiled Haddock and Grilled Marinated Chicken Breast W/Mushrooms**. Dinner cost is **\$18.00**.

Our program for November will be presented by Denton Schucker a fellow member of the Round Table. Topic for the evening the Gettysburg National Cemetery. We look for a good turnout to hear the story of this most hallowed ground.

Another last call for membership if you have not sent your renewal form to Pat Christ please get it done we want to finalize this issue. Thank you for your cooperation.

See you in November!

Tony Reilly Newsletter Editor  
610-921-3131

# **THE FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 2006**

### **ROUND TABLE BUSINESS**

Our November meeting was attended by 54 members and guest. Pat Christ membership chairwoman reported we have 94 paid members with two additional prospects for membership. Dave Fox and Roger Cotterill presented additional information on next June's field trip. Lexington, Virginia will be our destination and this will be a two-day, one night, visit. Trip dates Saturday June 10 and Sunday June 11, 2007. We will leave on the 10<sup>th</sup> about 6 or 6:30 in the morning the trip taking about four hours. At Lexington we will visit General Jackson's home, the Lee Chapel at Washington and Jefferson University and the Virginia Institute Museum. An evening dinner will complete the first day. A Sunday morning visit of downtown Lexington then a return to our bus for our return north. Our tour will stop at New Market and visit the fine museum there followed by a battlefield tour of the New Market Battlefield with a battlefield guide. We will have a dinner stop on the way home and return home about 10PM. This will be a full scheduled trip with a cost per person of \$230.00 with 30 people or \$191.00 with 40 people. This should be a great weekend with plenty to see start to plan ahead and mark those dates. As always more to come as we get closer to the trip dates, so stay tuned.

Arlan Christ treasurer's report showed a balance as of 10-10-06 of \$2,946.66, new income \$1,517.00, new expenses \$1,088.98 providing a balance as of 11-14-06 of \$3,374.67. Our preservation balance as of 11-14-06 is \$179.00.

Member Russell Angstadt sent a letter to Civil War Preservation Trust at their headquarters in Washington D.C. noting the Round Tables views regarding the recent problems with a contractor at Harper's Ferry. He sent the petitions we signed and our support of legal action and civil penalties if required.

### **OUR HISTORY TABLE**

Jack Gurney provided a Roger and Spencer Army Revolver, a 44 Cal. Percussion 6 shot with a 7.5 octagonal barrel and a weight of 2 pounds and 4 ounces. This weapon was produce in 1864 at Willow Dale, New York. Some 5,000 of these revolvers were purchased by the United States Government in 1865 at a price of \$12.00 each, not one of these weapons were ever issued for combat use. All were placed in storage at the New York Arsenal. At a scrap sale of Civil War surplus in 1904 a New York arms dealer named Bannerman bought all 5,000 pieces, still in there original cases as scrap for .25cents each and resold them for \$2.85 each. This accounts for the good condition of any of these weapons found today. I believe Jack indicated that any one of these weapons found today would carry a value price of \$12,000, not bad, not bad at all!

### **TRIVIA FROM THE TABLE**

Stonewall Jackson was one of the South's top military leaders. He was also considered a hypochondriac prone to eccentric behavior. Here are a few of his beliefs, he believed Northerners to be possessed by the devil, he would stroll through his camp handing out Sunday school leaflets instead of engaging in other social recreation and he refused to write letters that would be in the mail on a Sunday.

As boarder states Missouri and Kentucky had men fighting on both sides. Missouri had 100,000 fight for the Union and 40,000 for the Confederacy. Kentucky 75,000 Union and 25,000 Confederate.

Jefferson Davis's plantation in Mississippi was turned into a home for freed slaves at the end of the war.

Prior to the war the population of New York City rose from 515,000 to more than 800,000 in the 1850s. Chicago from 4,000 in 1837 to 112,000 by 1860. Immigration the prime contributor to these changes.

### **PRESERVATION/BOOK RAFFLE**

November's book raffle raised \$134.00 for our preservation fund. Book contributions by our members continues for this we thank the membership the contributions are valued because they keep expenses for new books to a minimum. Our preservation fund is now \$313.00.

Tom Tate noted he had no additional news regarding Harper's Ferry and any legal action that would be taken will take some time to be resolved.

### **NOVEMBER PROGRAM REVIEW**

Our November program was a presentation on the National Cemetery at Gettysburg. The speaker was fellow member Denton L. Schucker. Denton opened his talk with a brief review of his lengthy military service and stated his years in the military gave a special meaning to him for interest in a National Cemetery for our armed service personnel and his gratitude and respect for those who rest there. Denton also noted his desire to make this presentation at our November meeting as it was in November of 1863 that the National Cemetery in Gettysburg had its original dedication.

Following his opening comments our speaker presented a brief review of the Battle of Gettysburg and provided information on army strengths, casualties of killed, wounded and missing for both sides and information on troop movements during the battle.

Following this great battle the dead were everywhere and as more of the mortally wounded in hospitals, aide stations and private homes died from their wounds the total of dead continued to increase. Since the Confederate Army retreated the Union was left in charge of the battlefield with the responsibility of administering to the dead and wounded on both sides. These casualties also included the vast number of animals that were victims of the battle. The residents of Adams County were shocked to find what had been left behind following the battle. Thousands of makeshift graves scattered in farmyards, backyards, fields and gardens surrounding Gettysburg. Some 6,000 Union and Confederate dead on or near the battlefield. As deaths continued from wounds more temporary cemeteries were laid out where space was available.

Both soldiers and civilians worked at attending to the dead. On a priority bases Union dead were attended first, then Confederate and last the animals. As days passed the condition of dead not yet attended became a gruesome problem and most difficult to address. The terrible condition of field burials and a short supply of coffins made it clear something had to be done and done quickly. Leading Gettysburg citizens began to formulate a plan for a dedicated cemetery on the site of Cemetery Hill adjoining the existing Evergreen Cemetery. With the support of Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Curtin, the site was purchased and Union dead were moved from shallow and inadequate burial sites on the battlefield to the cemetery. Local attorney David Wills was the man primarily responsible for acquiring the land, overseeing the construction of the cemetery, and planning the dedication ceremony. Initial concepts and early organizational efforts were led by lawyer David McConaughy, the landscape architect was a William Saunders. Mr. Saunders worked with agents from the northern states on the proper disposition of their dead.

Saunders design had two facets: first, the Soldiers National Monument was placed at the center, promoting the Union victory and the valor of the fallen soldiers; second, the graves were arranged in a series of semi-circles around the monument. The graves are grouped by state, with a section for unknowns. Denton provided the following state arrangement: Maine 104, New Hampshire 49, Vermont 61, Massachusetts 159, Rhode Island 12, New York 866, New Jersey 78, Pennsylvania 526, Delaware 15, Maryland 22, West Virginia 11, Ohio 131, Indiana 80, Illinois 6, Michigan 171, Wisconsin 73, Minnesota 52, U.S. Regulars 138, and three sections of unknowns



totaling 979. In later years, additional graves were added outside the original section for dead of the Spanish-American War and World War I.

One of the first truly "National Cemeteries" the Soldiers National Cemetery is located adjacent to Evergreen Cemetery on the southern edge of Gettysburg. The dedication of the burial ground November 19, 1863 was the setting for President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. At this point in his presentation Denton was most ably assisted by Rich Kennedy who presented to us from memory Lincoln's most famous address. It was a fine moment in the presentation.

The National Cemetery was completed in March of 1864 with the reburial of the last of 3,512 Union dead, of which 979 are unknown as to name or unit. The Confederate dead from field plots was undertaken some seven years after the battle. From 1870 to 1873, upon the initiative of the Ladies Memorial Association of Richmond, Raleigh, Savannah and Charleston, 3,320 bodies were disinterred and sent to cemeteries in those cities for reburial. Seventy-three bodies were reburied in home cemeteries.

The National Cemetery came under the control of the War Department on May 1, 1872 it is currently administered by the National Park Service and contains some 6,000 individuals as their final resting place. At this time the cemetery can no longer expand and is closed to new burials.

We extend our thanks to Denton and Rich for a fine and informative presentation. With this background we each have the opportunity to visit the National Cemetery at Gettysburg with the knowledge and understanding of the reasons for this hallowed ground. A fine show gentlemen, a fine show.

### **DID YOU KNOW**

#### **SONG OF THE SOUTH**

It was, we may well state, the most popular song in the south and it was also very popular in the north. This popular minstrel song of the 1850's became, because of its close association with Confederate reunions in the nineteenth century the unofficial anthem of the Confederacy. When and how the term "Dixie" came to represent the South remains obscure, as does the origin of the tune's melody itself. One thing remains certain the song had its formal debut in the North in New York City on April 4, 1859. This song's composer was Daniel Decatur Emmett (1815-1904), who produced the song for a minstrel of a popular comedy, Pocahontas.

Emmett a native of Ohio had long been associated with popular music. He was the founder of one of the first minstrel groups in 1842, The Virginia Minstrels of New York City, Emmett was probably introduced to the tune by two African-American musicians, brothers Ben and Lou Snowden also from the state of Ohio. Emmett indicated the phrase "I wish I was in Dixie" came to mind when composing the song due to his wife's complaints about cold northern winters. The term Dixie originated from slaves of a Mr. Dix of New York who coined the term to describe a warm African-American paradise. Others indicated the term originated by allusion to Jeremiah Dixon, the English surveyor who, together with Charles Mason, drew the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania, the Mason-Dixon Line, regarded as the line separating the North and the South. Another plausible notion was the term originated in New Orleans when the Citizens Bank and Trust Company issued in the 1850's the \$10.00 currency note that bore the word "dix," the French word for ten.

The first musical transcription of the song was created in Montgomery, Alabama and it created such a stir that it was played at Jefferson Davis inauguration in the city on February 18, 1861. Although the song was popular in both North and South, this event alone firmly linked it with the South, which by 1861 had claimed the song for itself. As the North came to adopt "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" as its own battle hymn, "Dixie" with some added verses peculiar to the South became their battle hymn.

As a gesture of conciliation, Abraham Lincoln, upon being informed of General Lee's surrender at Appomattox, asked a resident military band in Washington to strike up "Dixie." It was one of the President's favorite tunes. While "Dixie" remains very popular to this day its

association with Confederate ideals and the waving of Confederate battle flags has at times made its airing controversial. While the song's fortune has been both positive and at times checkered, its Northern composer, Daniel Emmett died in reduced financial circumstances in Mount Vernon, Ohio in 1904.

When any of us hear the song played or sung it is most probable our thoughts go to our Southern states and the very popular "Song of the South."

### **CIVIL WAR USAGE**

**BATTALION**---(1) A command made up of two or more companies whose members were often detailed for special duty.(2) Companies of infantry temporarily serving apart from the parent body.

**HABEAS CORPUS**---A time honored legal instrument aimed at preventing imprisonment without a hearing. Meaning, "produce the body," it had for centuries been used to secure the release of suspects who had not been tried or convicted.

**LIGHT DIVISION**---A special unit of the Army of Northern Virginia. The unit was composed of troops commanded by General A.P. Hill. The designation light may mean that it was to be a rapid-response force that traveled with little gear to enhance its speed.

**PROVOST GUARD**---A military police detail usually charged with guarding prisoners or retrieving stragglers.

**JACKBOOT**---A large, heavy boot that extended well above the knee, offering some protection to its wearer.

## **THERE WILL BE NO DECEMBER QUIZ DUE TO OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

### **DECEMBER MEETING**

Our December meeting will be on **Tuesday December 12, 2006**. Meeting time will be **6:30PM** at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Please make dinner reservation by **Monday December 4, 2006**. Call **610-683-4384** for reservations call after 5PM on weekdays or call on the weekend.

The menu for December will be **Grilled Honey Mustard Salmon, Roasted Chicken Breast & Gravy and Baked Home Style Meatloaf & Gravy**. Dinner cost is **\$20.00**.

The program for our Christmas meeting will present Charlie Zahn who has frequented many round tables with his music and singing. Mr. Zahn is a fine performer and this should be a great evening of entertainment.

### **EDITORS NOTE**

We have received a number of requests for a program schedule for the remaining meetings in this campaign. Here is a list provided by Tom Tate, Program Chairman.

January---Roundtable Discussion: Lincoln as a war strategist and military commander.

February---The Battle of Perryville Mike Gabriel and Ron Rhein

March---The Pennsylvania Reserves Edward Ewing

April---The 48<sup>th</sup> Pa. Vol. Inf.& the Petersburg Mine Mr. James Corrigan

May--- TBA If possible Dave Valuska The Damn Dutch at Gettysburg

Any changes we will let you know as soon as possible. Hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving holiday. Look to see a good turnout for our December meeting we should have a nice evening and a good time.

Tony Reilly Newsletter Editor  
610-921-3131

# **THE FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**JANUARY 2007**

### **ROUND TABLE BUSINESS**

Our December meeting was attended by 48 members and guest. President Mike Gabriel opened a brief meeting requesting trip coordinators Dave Fox and Roger Cotterill provide an update on our June field trip. Dave and Roger passed out a trip itinerary covering details of the field trip. As noted in the itinerary final cost will depend on the number of participants. Members who have not received a copy of the trip itinerary can obtain one at our January meeting or by calling Dave at 610-582-9245 or Roger at 570-384-1274. As noted in the itinerary Dave and Roger advise no "Confederate Currency" will be accepted for trip payment, only "Yankee Dollars." This should be a fine trip so plan ahead hold those dates and join fellow members and guest on June 9-10, 2007.

Arlan Christ provided this treasurer's report. Balance as of 11-14-06 \$3,374.67, new income \$1,304.00, new expenses \$959.53 providing a \$3,719.14 balance as of 12-12-06. Our preservation fund as of this date is \$333.00. This does not include raffle ticket sales from our December meeting.

Program chairman Tom Tate advised the Newsletter that Past President Dave Valuska will speak at our May meeting on the topic "The Damn Dutch at Gettysburg." This now completes our program schedule from January to May 2007. This schedule was reviewed in our December newsletter.

### **OUR HISTORY TABLE**

Due to our Christmas program our History Table was bare this past December. However, we do have some trivia from the table.

-----Following the war Confederate General George E. Pickett spent the rest of his days as an insurance agent in Richmond, Virginia.

-----Also after the war Confederate General Daniel Harvey Hill served as a Newspaper Editor, College President and an author of an Algebra Textbook and Religious Traits.

-----"Gone With The Wind" remains the worlds' best selling novel about the Confederacy. Published in 1936 it still sells well in the United States and abroad.

-----Chickamauga and Chattanooga, containing more than 8,000 acres, are the largest of the National Park Services' Civil War Parks.

-----Confederate General John B. Hood lost the use of an arm and the amputation of a leg due to battle wounds, however, it did not prevent him from having eleven children during eleven years of marriage.

Stay tuned to Our History Table for there is more to come in the months to come.

### **PRESERVATION/BOOK RAFFLE**

Tom Tate informs the Newsletter raffle sales for December added \$112.00 for battlefield preservation. This increases our present fund to \$445.00. Tom noted we are doing well since we have already made a \$200.00 contribution in September for Perryville and Richmond battlefields in Kentucky.

Russ Angstadt provided pictures of the damage done at Harper's Ferry by the pipe-laying contractor. Any legal action taken will probably require time to be completed. Hopefully we will

have some additional information on this issue in the near future. We will keep you posted as information becomes available.

### **DECEMBER PROGRAM REVIEW**

Civil War music at Christmas was our December program. The program was a presentation by Charlie Zahm. This was a great night and I don't believe any of us in attendance was disappointed. Mr. Zahm was simply very, very good. He is one of the most popular vocalist on the east coast, a master of Folk and Celtic music and wonderful with the songs of Christmas. In addition of drawing from a large selection of early American and Civil War music he is an accomplished guitarist a master with his instrument. Mr. Zahm also writes his own music and is a serious student of the history of the music of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

In his presentation to us Charlie sang some fourteen songs covering Civil War, Christmas and Spiritual music. With two of his songs he provided what I would define as accompanying poems, he also worked at getting audience participation. From a popularity standpoint the Civil War songs, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "Marching Thru Georgia" and the Christmas songs "O Holy Night" and "Silent Night" may have been the audience favorites. However, every song sung was very entertaining.

I'm sure I can speak for all in attendance that we had a wonderful evening of music. We can hope that the Round Table will be able to bring Mr. Zahm back at a future date. Charlie indicated that he would be happy to entertain a return engagement to our Round Table. The Round Table extends our thanks to Charlie Zahm in providing a fine evening of music.

### **DID YOU KNOW**

#### **THE INVALID CORPS**

As the Civil War progressed and casualty list grew longer, the United States War Department searched for additional men to fill the depleted ranks of the Union Army. Veteran soldiers who had been wounded or had an illness that rendered them unfit for active campaigning could still perform limited duties. In 1863, the War Department established the Invalid Corps, later called The Veteran Reserve Corps. More than 60,000 men eventually joined this organization. They performed guard and provost duty, served in hospitals, performed in bands, garrisoned prisoner-of-war camps, and occasionally came under fire in one of their assignments. Their presence freed thousands of able-bodied soldiers to be sent to more active duty assignments.

General Orders No.105, dated April 28, 1863 authorized the establishment of the Invalid Corps. The War Department divided the Corps into three battalions, with soldiers assigned to each based on their physical condition. Men in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion could still use a musket and would be used for provost and guard duty, while those in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion were primarily used in hospitals. A 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, consisting of those in the poorest physical condition, was authorized but apparently never organized. Eventually the Corps had 24 Regiments and 188 independent companies. Many Invalid Corps units were organized in Washington, D.C., while other locations included Albany, Baltimore, Chicago, Detroit, Elmira, Harrisburg, Indianapolis, Louisville, New York and St. Louis. Altogether, 60,508 veterans served in these units.

Men in the Invalid Corps wore a distinctive uniform, a sky blue cavalry style jacket with dark blue trim, along with sky blue pants. Troops were initially issued obsolete weapons such as smooth bore muskets and Austrian and Prussian rifled muskets. The experiment in using partially disabled soldiers proved successful but the name Invalid Corps inspired scorn. The initials I C became "inspected and condemned," because of this the organization was changed, in 1864, to Veteran Reserve Corps (VRC).

In addition to their normal duties the Corps helped suppress the New York City draft riots of 1863, suffering a number of casualties. Their most significant military service took place in July of 1864 when a number of their regiments helped defend Washington against Jubal Early's Confederate raid. During the course of the war, 27 men from this Corps were killed or mortally



wounded, while 1,645 died from disease or other causes. VRC units remained on active duty until well after the war, the last unit being mustered out in October 1866.

The Confederate officials formed their own Invalid Corps for many of the same reasons as the Union. They continued in this unit for the remainder of their enlistment or if their condition improved they were returned to active units.

For both sides, while little remembered, these men provided a valuable service and should be remembered as honorable men for their contributions to their respective country.

### **CIVIL WAR USAGE**

**BATTERY**---In the Union Army, a cluster of six guns of the same caliber. In the Confederate Army, a cluster of four guns of the same caliber. Batteries were commanded by a captain and divided into sections, each section had two guns and was commanded by a lieutenant. Each gun was designated a platoon.

**BUTTERNUT**---A reference to Southern soldiers on the basis of the butternut color of their uniforms. With so many materials becoming rare in the South as the war progressed, textile mills turned to substitutes, resulting in various shades of light brown and brownish gray for military use.

**GRAPESHOT**---A projectile assembled with iron plates and rings and holding a cluster of shot together. Highly effective against troops at short range, the army discontinued the use of grapeshot in favor of canister. The navy continued to use grape throughout the war. Union grapeshot held nine balls, Confederate more, sometimes as many as twenty-one but with smaller iron balls.

**FIELD ARTILLERY**---Canon light enough to accompany infantry and cavalry into the field and capable of rapid deployment against an enemy force. A favorite weapon of this sort was the brass Napoleon canon. Heavy artillery was designed for stationary use, often in a defensive position, Light artillery was chiefly used by cavalry. Field artillery played a crucial role in almost every action in the Civil War.

### **JANUARY QUIZ**

Our January quiz will contain only one question and that question will lead us into our program for January. As we have done in the past we select a topic for general discussion at the January meeting this gives members an opportunity to express their views on the topic and the opportunity to participate in the discussion. We want to hear from as many members who want to offer an opinion. Please join in you do not have to be an expert on the evenings subject.

Our evening question for January: What are your views of President Lincoln as a war strategist and military commander? Give this some thought and pitch in with your opinions.

### **JANUARY MEETING**

Our January meeting will be on **Tuesday January 9, 2007**. Meeting time will be **6:30PM** at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Please make dinner reservations by our cutoff date **Wednesday January 3, 2007**. Call **610-683-4384** for dinner reservations call after 5PM on weekdays or call on the weekend.

The menu for January will be **Broiled Haddock, Yankee Pot Roast and Baked Ziti with Meatballs**. Dinner cost is \$18.00. See you in January, come prepared to join in on our Round Table Discussion.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL AND YOUR FAMILIES**  
**FROM THE FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT**

# **THE FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 2007**

### **ROUND TABLE BUSINESS**

With favorable weather our January meeting had an attendance of 45 members and guest. President Mike Gabriel opened the meeting with a discussion on our June field trip. Concerns regarding the length of the trip and the associated cost of the trip have been presented to the Round Table. A brief Board of Directors meeting was held following our January meeting and the trip issue was reviewed. A decision was made to have our trip coordinators Dave Fox and Roger Cotterill explore the possibility of a change in sites. A visit to the Carlisle Military Center and the Harrisburg Civil War Museum will be considered. If, however, there is more interest in the Lexington tour than we believe please state your interest by contacting Dave (610-582-9245) or Roger (570-384-1274) by our next meeting on February 13. Your input will help determine the choice of the June 2007 field trip. The Pennsylvania tour would be a one-day trip. Hopefully we can resolve this issue by our February meeting

Arlan Christ provided this treasurer's report. Balance as of 12-12-06 \$3,719.14, new income \$1,050.00, new expenses \$1,208.36 providing a balance of \$3,560.78 as of 1-9-07. December preservation raffle sales of \$112.00 gave us a fund total of \$445.00.

At this meeting there was some discussion on the possibility of a joint meeting with another Round Table in the general area. A meeting where we could bring in a noted Civil War speaker and share the cost of such a program and meeting, such a meeting would take some time to set up and coordinate. Stay tuned for future information on this issue.

### **OUR HISTORY TABLE**

Jack Gurney our history antique hunter continues to be successful with his hard to find items of the past. In January Jack provided and 18<sup>th</sup> century Ottoman Turkish horseman's pistol. This 1730 Turkish pistol was a .65 caliber flintlock with a weight of 2.5 pounds, a 12 inch Damascus barrel that fired the .65 caliber paper cartridge. Produced in Turkey after 1730 this pistol had all the elegance and detail of European pistols of the same period. The pistol was styled with units identified with France and Italy and executed with unmistakable Turkish workmanship. Jack's success in finding this pistol was probably a rare find. We must again extend our thanks to Jack our hunter of the week, month etc, etc.

Trivia Time:

-----Some non-war first that occurred during the Civil War period. In 1861 the first Passport System was introduced in the United States. In 1862 the first enclosed baseball park was built in Brooklyn, New York. In 1862 the first Income Tax was introduced and in 1864 the first Federal Cigarette Tax was established.

-----In the Official Records of the Civil War the three most frequently used terms are Skirmish, Scout and Reconnaissance.

-----Following the Civil War these five Union General officers all served terms as governor of states. George B. McClellan State of New Jersey, Adelbert Ames State of Mississippi, Ambrose Burnside State of Rhode Island, Joshua Chamberlain State of Maine and Benjamin Butler State of Massachusetts.

-----The Confederate Army had no existing set of dress regulations when the war broke out, and the men in each volunteer company were required to dress themselves. Gray became the standard dress color in September 1861 for the Confederate Army.

-----The first Confederate flag ever made was placed on the casket Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

### **PRESERVATION/BOOK RAFFLE**

Thanks to Russ Angstadt we have some more details concerning the bulldozing and the tearing up of ground at Harpers Ferry. Rather than abide by the process in place by the National Parks Service, the developer willing and knowingly disregarded this process. Other groups have joined with the Civil War Preservation Trust to petition the Department of the Interior to prosecute the offenders to the limit of the law and to stop other developers from considering similar moves.

Tom Tate reported members raised \$107.00 from our January book raffle for preservation. With generous donations of books from the members for our book raffles no new book purchases have had to be made allowing all raffle money to go to preservation. January raised dollars brings our present preservation fund total to \$552.00. With four months remaining in this campaign with a little push we should be able to reach \$1,000.00 by the end of our May meeting.

Good news from the State Gaming Commission no gambling permit was provided for the Gettysburg area. This is a great win for preservation.

### **JANUARY PROGRAM REVIEW**

As we have done the past few years our January program was a Round Table discussion on a subject of Civil War interest. This year our topic was President Lincoln as a war strategist and military commander. Our hope and interest in presenting this type of program is to have the membership participate with their views on the selected subject. We have many people in our organization that have a good deal of knowledge of this great Civil War and at this January meeting we certainly had strong evidence of that fact.

Simply noted we had great participation by numerous members all of who placed fine comments at the meeting on our chosen subject. I believe we can say that this general discussion had more participation and more interest by those in attendance than any of our previous programs in past Januarys.

As to our subject President Lincoln received high marks as our nations leader during this war. It was well recognized that he had a great responsibility in what may well have been our nations most perilous time. Comments were presented on his integration of military and political strategies, Confederate advantages of interior lines in most battles, his dealings with General officers especially a balance between West Point professionals and politically appointed generals. Comments were made on the importance of the Emancipation Proclamation regarding the slavery issue and the effect it had on foreign relations especially with England and France, the coastal blockade, the boarder states and the presidents relations with the Northern public. All comments presented by members were quite related to our subject of the evening.

Following our meeting a number of members noted their positive review of the evening's program. One member suggested such a program could be presented more than just at our January meeting. The success of this meeting goes to the membership for the interest they showed and their fine participation. It is a tribute to our Round Table that we have the quality of membership who joined with fellow members to make our January program a fine success. Our thanks to all we had a great night, interesting and entertaining

### **DID YOU KNOW**

#### **A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR**

Few events in the history of the United States have captured the hearts and minds of the American people quite like the American Civil War. The four-year conflict threatened to render a republic still in its infancy and pushed to the breaking point the strength and endurance of its people. In the end, as the smoke of the final battle cleared over the countryside, the North was the

decided victor. This victory had a tremendous cost. The once proud South was in ruins, its goals of self-government in a separate nation, fought for and slowly beaten down by a war of great battles and attrition that cost the South almost everything it had in terms of manpower, industry and commerce. While the North did not suffer as much in terms of physical destruction, it too paid a high price in lives lost and families torn apart.

The Civil War was different in many ways. It has been called the first "modern" war in terms of weaponry (the breechloader and the magazine rifle were introduced during the war), and it was the first major war to make full and effective use of the telegraph, developed in 1837, to provide information to and from battlefields. The existing Railway System some 30,000 miles of it was employed in the movement of troops and in the vital transport of supplies of all types. Other first were the Ironclad warship, balloons for aerial observation and an early, but crude machine gun.

Of great importance for historians today the Civil War was one of the first military events to be widely chronicled by both sides as the events and issues took place. Journalists for newspapers and magazines from both North and South and also correspondents from foreign lands covered every aspect of the great conflict from beginning to end, often with in depth at-the-scene descriptions of the great battles fought. Photographers and sketch artists brought the war to life with both brutal and touching images of the carnage of the war and the effect on its participants. The adage "a picture is worth a thousand words" spoke volumes to the home fronts.

At war's end participants and observers raced to publish their thoughts and interpretations on the four years of death and destruction. They all from Jefferson Davis and Ulysses S. Grant to the battle-hardened private were eager to tell the world what they saw, felt and experienced as the war raged around them. Soldiers' letters, diaries and written notes that survived the ravages of time provide a remarkable record on the war. This saved information covered battles planned and fought, the work of governments North and South. The struggles to survive and carry on and how the war affected the hearts and minds of the entire nation both North and South. These sources of information speak of remarkable bravery and sadly of cowardice, of victories and devastating defeats, kindness and acts of violence. All emotions were chronicled in the simple words of those who experienced them. This people history of the war put a very human face on the war in addition to the long lists of facts and figures.

With the passing of time a tendency to idealize the Civil War has taken place. As generations pass the conflict has been at times glossed over by "Gone With the Wind" type romanticism. The American Civil War was far from a romantic encounter for those who participated in the war. It was a horrifying nightmare of bloodshed, pain, suffering and innocence lost. Men of all ages died by the thousands in battles and often died horribly as we have all read on many occasions. For those who would die an instant death in battle such may well have been a blessing, others were not so lucky lying on a battlefield bleeding and in great pain. For many the wounds of battle meant amputation and a life of disability.

In our American Civil War it is possible and probable that the one fact that made this war "a different kind of war" is the truth that it was a war of "brother against brother," men of the same nation, the same language and surly many of the same customs of the times. Why men with so much in common fought so long and hard is a great question still reviewed by historians. Perhaps General Robert E. Lee answered this question at the Battle of Fredericksburg when he said "It is well that war is so terrible, or we should grow too fond of it." We can take comfort in the thought and belief that at the close of the Civil War, there was no remaining fondness for war on either side North and South.

### **CIVIL WAR USAGE**

**TO AMUSE**---To take action calculated to keep the enemy occupied without risking an escalation that could lead to battle. This unusual expression, which did not survive the Civil War, was in constant use during the conflict.



**TO ANNOY**—To keep the enemy on the move or alert without making an attack occasional artillery fire and harassing rifle fire at the enemy's flanks are examples of annoying.

**TO POUR**—To order several units to move against an adversary so that their ranks are mingled and they are able to overrun a numerically smaller force.

**TO BE REMOVED**—The removal of an officer from a command position was much more severe than just relieving him. Generally when removed from command, such officers were seldom reassigned.

**SCURVY**—A nutritional malady caused by a lack of vitamin C due to a lack of fresh vegetables and fruit. Often the bane of seamen who were at sea for months, it became a major illness to Civil War soldiers in the last year of the war.

### **FEBRUARY QUIZ**

**Q.1** On March 6, 1861 Jefferson Davis created the Confederate Army by calling for 100,000 volunteers. Five days prior to March 6 Davis named the first brigadier general in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States. Can you name this capable officer?

**Q.2** One of the most efficiently run departments of the Federal Government was led by a man President Lincoln called "Father Neptune." Name this department head?

**Q.3** The loss of this Union warship was the greatest single ship disaster in the U.S. Navy until World War II. Identify this warship?

### **FEBRUARY MEETING**

Our February meeting will be on **Tuesday February 13, 2007**. Meeting time is **6:30 PM** at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Please make dinner reservations by our cutoff date **Monday February 5, 2007**. Call **610-683-4384** for dinner reservations call after 5PM on weekdays.

The menu for our February meeting will be **Grilled Boneless Pork Loin, Grilled Salmon and Hawaiian Chicken**. Dinner cost is \$18.00.

Our program for the February meeting will be presented by our two Western Stars Mike Gabriel and Ron Rhein, they will continue with their War in the West by speaking on The Battle of Perryville. This battle fought on October 8, 1862 proved to be the major battle of the war on Kentucky soil. Mike and Ron have provided many fine programs on western battles and this one should be no exception. Join all your Round Table friends as we go west see you all in February.

Tony Reilly  
Newsletter Editor 610-921-3131

# **THE FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH 2007**

### **ROUND TABLE BUSINESS**

For only the second time, I believe, we had to cancel a meeting due to poor weather conditions. It is a difficult decision to cancel a meeting for it affects a lot of members who had planned to attend the meeting. These members must be contacted to advise them of the cancellation and arrangements made with Moselcm Springs Inn must also be cancelled. However, this decision was the right move since February 13 was not a good day or night and I believe our members would agree.

With no meeting we have only one business item to report. Dave Fox one of our trip coordinators advised the Newsletter the spring field trip to Lexington, Virginia has been cancelled. To replace this tour Dave and Roger have arranged a trip to the United States Army Heritage and Education Center and the Military History Institute Army Heritage Museum in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Our tour date will be Saturday May 19, 2007, Armed Forces Day. Dave noted that reenactments and information on all wars fought by American forces will be part of the days events. Our trip would leave at 7AM and return by 9:30 PM dinner, at a place to be determined, will be included in the trip price and hopefully a speaker at dinner. This trip will cost \$55.00 per person and a bus accommodating 47 people will be provided. For lunch we will be on our own. I am sure Dave and Roger will provide more trip details at our March meeting. It looks to be a great day, don't delay sign up for the trip as soon as possible.

With no preservation information, treasury report and program review for February these features will not be presented in this Newsletter. Our quiz questions for February will be reviewed as our questions for the March meeting.

### **OUR HISTORY TABLE**

Trivia Time:

-----Historians believe the Rebel yell was first heard during the First Battle of Bull Run in July 1861. This yell was heard during nearly every major battle after that.

-----Slaves who worked the fields of a plantation occasionally were assisted by paid white laborers, their owners considered it a good year if each field slave produced a profit of \$250.00 or more.

-----The first soldier to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery was a Confederate prisoner of war who died in a local hospital. Most of the early plots in the cemetery were located in what had been General and Mary Lee's Rose garden.

-----On October 3, 1863 President Lincoln issued a proclamation making the last Thursday in November a national day of "Thanksgiving."

-----On February 22, 1865 Wilmington, North Carolina is the last Confederate port to be taken by Union forces.

### **DID YOU KNOW**

#### **EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT**

The Civil War was one of the first wars to be extensively covered in the press on both sides. The war was covered at every angle by a literal army of journalist, artist and photographers, nearly 500 by some estimates. So thorough was the media coverage of the conflict that opposing

generals sometimes learned more from newspapers than their own spy reports. Newspaper and magazine journalists from North, South, and overseas were given great freedom to follow the armies. Their stories, often decidedly biased, have helped historians to this day to understand exactly what happened during the war and why it happened.

Newspapers and magazines reported the war in two ways: through on-site coverage of battles and other important events and through editorials stating the publication's position on a particular subject. In the North, the majority of newspapers, but not all, shared the abolitionist sentiment expressed by the government. In the South papers sympathized with the Confederate cause and stated so vociferously, the vast majority of Southerners were proslavery and anti-Union. There were some dissenting voices, but not many. As we can understand those who went against the common sentiment on either side risked retribution from angry readers, if you do not agree with our views then you are against us.

Modern newspapers frequently carry blistering attacks on public officials and government policies the Civil War papers were no different. Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis were often pilloried in the press for their actions and policies. Military leaders also found themselves victims of ridicule and attacks especially following a battle they did not win or provide effective leadership. In truth, military success always seemed to play a role in whether the government was perceived positively or negatively. In bad times Lincoln was a scoundrel in the eyes of editorial writing armchair experts. With military successes and Confederate setbacks Lincoln would suddenly be a savior. Both Lincoln and Davis learned not to get into fights with men who bought ink by the barrel, however editorial negativity toward them disturbed both of them.

As with combat journalist today, reporters covering field action risked their lives to get a good story. Daily newspapers and weekly news magazines such as Harper's Weekly and Leslie's sent their people by the dozens to cover the battles, and many lost their lives in the process.

Though a relatively new art form, photography helped put a human face on warfare for the very first time. People on the home fronts were confronted with the harsh realities of the images of war's death and destruction. Since photography was still in its infancy newspapers and magazines relied on sketch artists to capture an event or a scene in a drawing. Such sketch work illustrated and brought to life the reporters words. Early photography and sketch artists brought the battles, camp life, ambulances, hospitals and the glories and harshness of war to the front doors of the people North and South. Thanks to these unsung heroes, no aspect of the American Civil War was left unexamined and today our understanding of this great conflict is probably better than in any previous American war.

### **CIVIL WAR USAGE**

**HORSE COLLAR**---A designation for a bedroll draped around a soldier's neck and held in place by straps. This device allowed many soldiers to discard their cumbersome haversacks.

**ARKANSAS TOOTHPICK**---Some Northern reared soldiers used this term to label a side-knife carried by some Southern troops. The weapons use was well understood.

**CONDEMNED YANKEES**---A Confederate reference to the special organization known as the Federal Invalid Corps.

**TO GO UP**---To die on the battlefield or in a hospital, supposedly and hopefully ascending to heaven.

**KEPI**---The word "kepi" is a French word meaning "cap" and denotes a French short, round and leather visored cap with a flat crown. It refers to any variation of the 1858 U.S. Army forage cap, with the distinctive feature in its angle or height of the crown.

### **MARCH QUIZ**

**Q.1** On March 6, 1861 Jefferson Davis created the Confederate Army by calling for 100,000 volunteers. Five days prior to March 6 Davis named the first Brigadier General in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States. Can you name this capable officer?

**Q.2** One of the most efficiently run departments of the Federal Government was led by a man President Lincoln called "Father Neptune." Name this department head?

**Q.3** The loss of this Union warship was the greatest single ship disaster in the U.S. Navy until World War II. Identify this warship?

### **MARCH MEETING**

Our March meeting will be held on **Tuesday March 13, 2007**. Meeting time is **6:30PM** at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Please make dinner reservations by our cutoff date **Monday March 5, 2007**. Call **610-683-4384** for dinner reservations call after 5PM.

The menu for our March meeting will be **Grilled Boneless Pork Loin, Grilled Salmon and Hawaiian Chicken**. Dinner cost will be **\$18.00**.

Our March program will be a presentation by fellow member Ed Ewing who will speak on the subject of the Pennsylvania Reserves. The reserves counted thirteen infantry regiments of Pennsylvania volunteers and were designated as the 1<sup>st</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> Pa. Reserves. Known best as the Pa. Reserves they were later designated and assigned "volunteer numbers" of 30<sup>th</sup> through 42<sup>nd</sup> Pa. Volunteers. This should be an informative presentation on these Pennsylvania units who fought well during the war.

Since we all had an unexpected February meeting cancellation we should be ready for a big March turnout. Join friends and fellow members at our March meeting and enjoy Ed Ewing's presentation on the Pennsylvania Reserves.

See you in March!

Tony Reilly  
Newsletter Editor 610-921-3131



## Battles of the PA Reserves

Dranesville	Bristoe Station
Mechanicsville	Mine Run
Gaines Mill	Wilderness
Glendale	Spotsylvania
Malvern Hill	North Anna
Second Bull Run	Bethesda Church
South Mountain	
Antietam	Cloyd Mountain
Fredericksburg	New River Bridge
Gettysburg	Harrisonburg
	Cross Keys

## Commanders of the PA Reserves

George McCall  
Truman Seymour  
John Reynolds  
George Meade  
Samuel Crawford

1 <sup>st</sup> Brigade (Reynolds)	1 – 2 – 5 – 8 Regiments
2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade (Meade)	3 – 4 – 7 – 11 – 13 Regiments
3 <sup>rd</sup> Brigade (Seymour)	6 – 9 – 10 – 12 Regiments

# **THE FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**APRIL 2007**

### **ROUND TABLE BUSINESS**

Our March meeting was attended by 56 members and guest our Vice President Ron Rhein open the meeting by requesting Dave Fox provide an update on this years field trip. Dave presented to the members the finalized information for our trip scheduled for Saturday May 19, 2007. While Dave reviewed the itinerary for the trip fellow trip coordinator Roger Cotterill presented to members present a copy of the trip itinerary. This field trip will be a full day visit to the United States Army Heritage & Education Center and Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. An evening dinner will feature a speaker who will talk on the occupation and shelling of Carlisle by Confederate forces. If your planning to go Dave recommends an early reservation since our bus has a capacity of 47 people. Call early and get a good seat. Any questions regarding the trip contact Dave Fox at 610-582-9245 or Roger Cotterill at 570-384-1274. The cost of this trip is a gentle \$55.00.

Arlan Christ provided this Treasurer's report. Balance as of 1-9-07 \$3,560.78, new income \$959.00, new expenses \$840.70 providing a 3-13-07 balance of \$3,679.08. Our preservation balance on 3-13-07 was \$552.00. Remember we had no February meeting due to the "white stuff."

We have a change in the program for our May meeting. Mike Gabriel and Ron Rhein will present their annual western theater battle presentation. This year it will be the Battle of Perryville. Former president of the Round Table Dave Valuska 's presentation on the "Damn Dutch at Gettysburg: will be held for a future open date.

### **OUR HISTORY TABLE**

Jack Gurney provided a Burnside carbine named for its inventor General Ambrose A. Burnside. This weapon was a 54 Cal. Rifle that weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces was used by the Union Cavalry. The United States Government purchased some 50,000 of these single shot weapons between 1860 and 1862. The weapon was made by the Burnside Rifle Company of Providence, Rhode Island and was the first federally purchased carbine to use a metallic cartridge. Our thanks to Jack who continues to produce fine items for our historical interests.

Trivia from the table:

-----During 1861-1865, with more than 955,000 immigrants arriving, 764,000 immigrated to the North and 191,000 to the South. These numbers represent quite a difference and the Northern Army greatly benefited by this large difference in manpower.

-----Mrs. Robert E. Lee's famous great-grandmother was Martha Washington.

-----Brigadier General Henry L. Benning CSA attracted little attention during the war. This native of Georgia would be all but forgotten today except for Fort Benning at Columbus, Georgia where the United States Army maintains the world's largest training program for infantrymen.

-----In 1860 the United States national debt was \$64.8 million. At the close of the war in 1865 the national debt was \$2.7 billion an increase of 4,100%.

-----Brigadier General Irvin McDowell was the first United States commanding officer in history to head an army as large as 30,000 men.

### **PRESERVATION/BOOK RAFFLE**

Tom Tate reported March raffle ticket sales were \$112.00 for preservation. This gives our preservation fund \$664.00 to date for this campaign. We would like to top \$1,000.00 for the year we ask all members to dig a bit deeper in the next two months for that extra dollar or two to help the Round Table meet our \$1,000.00 mark for this campaign.

Tom also noted we continue to receive good books for our raffle sales and we are in good shape with a fine supply of books for our raffles. Our thanks to all members for any and all participation in our book raffles. Remember "all" raffle monies go to preservation. Thank you all again!

Tom noted he received some interest in the Round Table selecting and adopting one of the Gettysburg monuments that our Round Table would be interested in maintaining as a preservation project. If interest in this project is strong bring it to the floor at any future meeting for members to review and consider as a future project.

We understand from Tom Tate that only a few Round Tables provide gifts to Civil War Preservation Trust projects and our Round Table is one of the few. If possible maybe we could obtain a speaker from CWPT to give us insight on the activities and work of this organization. It may help us to determine the direction we should consider in providing any future preservation gifts.

### **MARCH PROGRAM REVIEW**

Our evening program was a presentation by fellow member Ed Ewing who spoke on the Pennsylvania Reserves. The "Reserves" were thirteen infantry regiments of Pennsylvania volunteers designated as the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Reserves. Although the latter was the designation by which these regiments were known, they were also assigned volunteer numbers of the 30<sup>th</sup> through 42<sup>nd</sup> Pa Volunteers.

These 13 regiments were grouped into three brigades to constitute an Infantry Division commonly known as the Pa. Reserves. Ed pointed out that being identified as a division the Reserves were not looked upon as a separate infantry corps for they had no artillery or cavalry attached to their units as a part of the Reserves. In his presentation our speaker spoke highly of the officers who commanded the Reserves. These commanders were, in succession, Generals McCall, Reynolds, Meade and Crawford. While under the command of General McCall the Reserves 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade was led by General Reynolds who commanded the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Regiments. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade under General Meade had the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Regiments. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade under General Seymour had the 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Regiments. Our speaker defined the leadership of the Reserves General officers and the field grade and company grade officers as very good men. He also noted the NCO's and enlisted personnel as good and well trained soldiers.

During the war the Pa Reserves had some 15,000 officers and men under arms of this number 1,200 came home after the war. Of the top 50 Federal Regiments with men killed in action the Reserves had four of their regiments in the top 50 with the 4<sup>th</sup> Reserves ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in this class of men killed in action. Needless to note this Federal Division of Pa Reserves saw a great deal of action during the war. Ed identified a number of campaigns the Reserves fought in, these included the Peninsula Campaign, Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna and others. In the Peninsula Campaign the Reserves suffered 1/5 of all Federal losses in this battle.

The term "Pa Reserves" came about with the first calls from Washington for troops. Pennsylvania like most other states found more men rushing to the colors than had been asked for and more than the Federal Government could supply and handle by this call to the colors. Governor Curtin then organized the men not accepted by this call into the Pa Reserves, training and equipping them at state expense. These men came from all counties in the state and were trained at four state locations: Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Easton and West Chester.

Mr. Ewing's presentation provided much more depth in his talk than we can present in the newsletter review. While we study the war it is always good to hear and learn of the deeds accomplished by men and women of our home state of Pennsylvania during the Civil War. Ed has brought the Pa Reserves and their deeds to the Round Table for which we are most thankful for his fine presentation. One of Ed's closing comments in his presentation pays great tribute to the men of the Pa Reserves when he stated "their courage and devotion to duty and to their country was the story of the Pennsylvania Reserves." We again thank Mr. Ed Ewing for his presentation on the good men of the Pa Reserves.

### **DID YOU KNOW**

### **PLANTATION LIFE**

Contrary to popular belief, which has been fueled by movies such as *Gone With The Wind*, the South was not one huge collection of large plantations. In truth, there were far more smaller and mid-sized farms most of which were tended without slaves. However, it's the easy life style of the landed gentry that has become so firmly embedded in the public conscience regarding plantation life.

The Deep South was home to the majority of plantations, as they are recalled today. Large, almost palatial homes overseeing hundreds and often thousands of acres of prime farmland, tended by slaves. Louisiana and Virginia both contained a large number of plantations, most of which grew cotton, tobacco, indigo and rice. But plantations could be found in almost all of the Confederate states. Indeed, the plantation identified the Southern sensibility and lifestyle in the eyes of most Northerners, even if they had never seen a plantation.

Plantation owners were, for the most part, wealthy individuals with a taste for the finer things in life. They left the daily maintenance of their estates and farms to their staff, which allowed them plenty of time to spend on their favorite hobbies. Hunting was a favorite pastime among wealthy plantation owners, and most Southern men rich and poor learned to ride and shoot at a very young age. Horse racing was another popular activity and one that usually resulted in sizable bets between area plantation owners.

Wealthy planters, like the Northern rich, also enjoyed entertaining large house parties, balls and banquets that were held quite frequently. Attire was formal for both men and women, including the hoopskirt that have come to typify the classic "Southern Belle." Southern women spent a lot of time on dress codes in order to be fashionable.

Planters were doted on by a house staff that included butlers, maids, cooks and nannies for the children of wealthy planters. Like the farmhands and plantation overseers, the majority of plantation house staffs were slaves. Nannies also called "mammies" played an important role in the daily running of the household. Children of a plantation owner often grew up with a closer bond to a nanny than to their own mothers. It was the nanny who saw to the children's care, feeding, schooling and behavior issues. Nannies had the authority to punish children as well; it was one of the few instances in which a slave was allowed to lay a hand on a white person.

Treatment of slaves varied greatly among plantation owners. Some owners were strict to the point of brutality administering severe punishment for small infractions they ran the home more by fear than respect. For the most part planters took relatively good care of their slaves, who were viewed as an expensive investment a capable farmhand could cost as much as \$1,000.00 at an auction. Most planters doled punishment as appropriate, usually ignoring minor infractions. Many owners gave their slaves a small piece of land to farm for themselves and at times paid a small wage or allowance to allow purchases of personal items. This is not to infer that the life of a slave was pleasant. Under the best of circumstances slaves were still property and most dreamed of freedom.

Plantations of all sizes were hard hit as the Civil War progressed. The wealthiest landowner had limited purchasing power when all he had in the bank were worthless Confederate bank notes. Near the end of the war many planters found themselves scrimping to survive. These



planters also faced the wrath of invading Union forces, many of who saw the Southern plantations as the embodiment of Southern evil. It was not uncommon for Union forces to vandalize and even destroy plantation homes and properties. Slaves were set free and to often owners were attacked if they were caught.

During the Civil War life on a plantation, a farm and in the cities saw the daily activities that people engaged in much like the daily and simple pleasures most people pursue on an everyday basis. They worked, played, worshiped and strived for a better life for their families just as we do today. Of course we today do not have to contend with a civil war being fought on our very doorsteps.

Plantation life was probably a great way to live, however, if we look at a famous old saying that stated "all good things come to an end" then the American Civil War brought the good life of plantation days and all that went with it to an end.

### **CIVIL WAR USAGE**

**DRAGOON**--Unlike Cavalry, which was trained to fight from the saddle, or mounted troops who used horses for transportation but fought on foot, dragoons were trained to fight from the saddle and on foot. When the Civil War began Dragoon units were reorganized into Cavalry units and fought as Cavalry units.

**DEPARTMENT**--A territorial organization usually named and occasionally numbered. In many but not all cases, an army stationed or operating within a department took its name from that geographical region.

**TO DRUM OUT**--To escort, at the cadence of a drum, a dishonorably discharged soldier from his company, regiment or camp.

**GREATCOAT**--A British term for an overcoat.

**PACK SADDLE**--A saddle for a donkey, mule or horse that was designated to carry a burden rather than a rider.

### **APRIL QUIZ**

**Q.1** In this ill-fated and badly led battle some 5,300 soldiers, Union and Confederate, were killed. Union General U.S. Grant so upset by this incident called it "the saddest affair I have ever witnessed in the war." Following the battle Grant dismissed the commander of the division that led the attack. Can you identify this battle?

**Q.2** The overall naval strategies of both the North and South revolved around attempts to establish, or to thwart, a blockade of the Confederate coastline. Despite its hundreds of bays, inlets, river mouths and deltas the South had only ten seaports which possessed rail and water connections to the interior that they had to protect. Can you name any of these seaports?

**Q.3** The Union's conscription system ( The Draft ) was designed primarily to stimulate volunteering, and in this it succeeded very well. A draftee was not popular in the Northern or Southern Armies. Can you estimate what percent of the Union Army was made up by draftees?

### **APRIL MEETING**

Our April meeting will be on Tuesday April 10, 2007. Meeting time is 6:30PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Cutoff date for reservations is April 2, 2007, call 610-683-4384 for reservations. April menu is Chicken Pot Pie, Grilled Boneless Pork Loin and Grilled Salmon dinner cost is \$18.00.

Our speaker for the April meeting is Mr. James Corrigan his subject will be the 48<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers he has written a book on this subject copies of the book will be available for sale at the meeting.

See you at the April meeting!

# **THE FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**MAY 2007**

### **ROUND TABLE BUSINESS**

President Mike Gabriel opened our April meeting advising the members that our May meeting would include election of officers for our next year's campaign. If you have an interest in any of the office positions please let us all know. We have a lot of talent in the organization and we can always use the help for any of the positions.

President "Mike" called on Dave Fox for an update on our field trip. Dave advised our trip is scheduled for May 19, 2007 our destination is Carlisle, Pennsylvania and the United States Army Heritage and Education Center and Army War College. The trip cost is \$55.00 per person our bus will leave Lytle Hall on the campus of Kutztown University at 7AM. Our return should be about 9:30 PM. Roger Cotterill passed out small maps of the Army Heritage Trail and the many exhibits that will be available to review. Vendors will be available on premise for lunch stops at individual expense. Our evening meal will be part of the trip cost and a speaker, Mr. Art Bergeron, will speak on Union General Godfrey Weitzel. Our dinner location is the Historic Holly Inn in Mount Holly Springs, Pennsylvania.

Arlan Christ provided this treasurer's report: Balance as of 3-13-07 \$3,679.08, new income \$1,155.00, new expenses \$1,029.87 providing a 4-10-07 balance of \$3,804.21. Our preservation fund as of that date is \$664.00.

At the May meeting we will have an opportunity to honor our Round Table founder and past president Dave Valuska. We hope for a strong turnout at this meeting to extend our thanks to Dave and for his contributions to the Round Table. To further encourage attendance at this meeting our program will be presented by our favorite western stars Mike Gabriel and Ron Rhein, scheduled to speak at the February meeting they were snowed out due to the poor weather. There past programs have been top of the line presentations and this year should be no different as they speak on the Battle of Perryville. Now these two guys are pretty good and with a full evening schedule plan to attend the May meeting we should have a fine evening.

### **OUR HISTORY TABLE**

Jack Gurney provided a double action 1858 Army Model revolver manufactured by the Starr Arms Company. This weapon was a 44Cal. 6 shot revolver weighing 3 pounds with a six inch barrel. The Starr Arms Company made 23,000 of this model revolver. Jack gave the weapon high marks and indicated the weapon he had could still be fired. Jack noted the revolver had a government inspector mark on the handgrip to indicate its authenticity. Thank you Mr. Gurney!

Trivia from the table:

-----Although "The Star Spangled Banner" was a popular song in the Union during the war, it did not become the National Anthem by act of Congress until 1931.

-----The annual tax rate on U.S. incomes in 1862 was 3% for incomes of \$600 to \$10,000, and 5% for all higher income. "Ah the good old days."

-----Although the State of Florida saw few significant actions during the war the State furnished 2,400 men to the Union and about 15,000 men to the Confederacy.

-----Though greatly dominated by the U. S. Navy the Confederacy did place twenty-two Ironclad vessels into operation during the war.

-----After Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation the "London Spectator" denounced the document as a "hypocritical sham" and the "London Times," rival of the Spectator, described Lincoln's edict that freed slaves in rebel territory as "a very sad document."

### **PRESERVATION/BOOK RAFFLE**

Tom Tate reports we raised another \$133.00 at our April meeting for preservation. This brings our preservation fund up to \$797.00. If we have a good ticket sale at the May meeting we should be able to top \$900.00. This is a bit shy of our targeted \$1,000.00 we had hoped to get. Having to cancel our February meeting probably cost us our goal. We had also made a contribution to the Western Battlefields of \$200.00 early this campaign. The battlefields were Perryville and Richmond Kentucky.

Our May book raffle will have a larger book offering than usual we also have a copy of our April speaker's book on the 48<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania at the Battle of the Crater. We hope we can have a good book raffle in May to come close to our targeted goal of \$1,000.00, so fill your pockets with goal and buy that extra ticket in May.

Tom notes we will be selecting a preservation gift site at the May meeting so come with you thoughts and make a suggestion for a battlefield contribution. Tom also notes two possible considerations would be additional gifts to Glendale or the Slaughter Pen at Fredericksburg.

### **APRIL PROGRAM REVIEW**

Our speaker for the evening was Mr. James Corrigan who spoke on the 48<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment at the Battle of the Crater. This battle was fought on July 30, 1864. The 48<sup>th</sup> was a regiment recruited exclusively of men from Schuylkill County in Pennsylvania and entered service in September 1861, to serve the cause of the Union. Assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps the regiment saw service along the Atlantic coast in efforts to stop Confederate Blockade Runners. They also served in the battles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Bull Run, Antietam and later at Cold Harbor. By the Petersburg campaign the 48<sup>th</sup> was down to about 400 veterans in service. At this point our speaker brought his comments to the Battle of the Crater, also called the Battle of the Mine. This battle was an effort initiated by Federal troops at Petersburg to overcome the city's Confederate defenses. Petersburg was an important transportation hub and played a strategic role in supplying Lee's army in the South. Stalemated the Federals looked for an idea on how to end this problem.

The 48<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania, a regiment composed largely of coal miners, was assigned a section of the trenches opposite what was called Elliott's Salient, a Confederate redoubt that was just 400 feet from the Union outpost. Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pleasants commander of the 48<sup>th</sup>, who was a mining engineer before the war, suggested that a tunnel be constructed under the Confederate trenches and that explosives be placed in strategic locations in the tunnel to blow up the Confederate fortifications. This suggestion was moved up the chain of command and eventually accepted with some reservations.

Tunneling by the 48<sup>th</sup> began on June 25 and was completed on July 23. Four days later placing of the powder charge was completed. The tunnel ran 511 feet to a point twenty feet below Confederate positions. Two lateral galleries with a total length of seventy-five feet were also run under the enemy trenches, and 8,000 pounds of gunpowder was placed and ready for the explosion. Following the explosion black troops of the 4<sup>th</sup> Division, IX Corps were assigned to lead the charge by Corps commander General Ambrose Burnside. A few hours before the explosion General Meade changed orders to have a white division lead the assault following the blast. Meade felt experienced troops should lead and Grant agreed. Troops commanded by General James Ledlie were chosen by lot, straws pulled from a hat, to attack following the explosion on July 30 at 4:15AM. Lieutenant Colonel Pleasants entered the mine and lit the fuse but the explosion did not occur he sent two more men to relight the fuse and at 4:44 AM the gunpowder went off.

General Ledlie's troops attacked but he himself cowered in a bombproof shelter behind the lines. A vicious fight took place but the Confederates held the position. Union dead were at 504 plus 1,881 wounded and 1,413 reported missing. The Confederates had 361 killed, 727 wounded and 403 missing. This Union failure was blamed on Burnside, Ledlie and others. After the battle both these men were given leaves that ended in their resignations. Lieutenant Colonel Pleasants and men of the 48<sup>th</sup> did their job well although they did not take part in the follow up attack. General Grant saw the effort as a stupendous failure due to inefficiency and incompetent leadership on the part of Corps and Division commanders.

Our speaker provided much more detailed comments on the battle Mr. Corrigan did note an interesting point when he stated this battle with entrenched troops on both sides introduced a different military tactic into the Civil War, one that became heavily used in World War I. I also offer this point Elliott's Salient was named for Brigadier General Stephen Elliott Jr. CSA from South Carolina who commanded troops defending the Salient, he was seriously wounded in this battle, but lived to fight another day.

I felt our speaker did a fine job on this presentation, we had a number of good questions and this is a good sign of a good presentation. The Round Table extends our thanks to Jim for a fine presentation on the 48<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania at the Battle of the Crater.

### **DID YOU KNOW**

#### **THIS MOST HALLOWED GROUND**

During and after the Civil War Arlington National Cemetery was the final resting place for hundreds of Confederate dead and thousands of Union dead, it was the largest of the nation's burial grounds. In April 1861 these acres on the Virginia heights overlooking the Potomac River and Washington D. C. were not planted with the dead but with crops. Robert E. Lee was doing his best to make his wife's estate a model farm.

Mary Anne Custis Lee inherited Arlington in 1857 upon the death of her father, George Washington Parke Custis, the adopted grandson of George Washington. Mrs. Lee grew up in Arlington House. After her wedding to Robert E. Lee in 1831 they lived at Arlington even when Lee was serving in the west. Mrs. Lee's pride was her rose garden on the mansion's property.

When Lee resigned his commission in the United States Army in April 1861 and left for Richmond, Lee urged his wife to prepare to leave Arlington and follow him to Richmond. Lee was certain that Arlington so strategically located, would soon be occupied by Union soldiers. Mrs. Lee receiving word that Union troops would soon arrive began taking away whatever family relics and possessions she could and stored the rest in the attic and cellar, she and her daughters headed south. Mrs. Lee and her husband would never set foot in Arlington House again, their home of thirty years.

In 1862 Congress levied taxes on real estate in the "insurrecting" districts with a real goal of confiscating Southerners property rather than raising revenue. Tax collectors refused to accept payments from anyone but the property owner when Mrs. Lee then an invalid sent a cousin with her payment, obviously neither she or her husband General Lee could go in person, it was refused. Their Arlington estate, some 1,100 acres, went on the auction block for default of taxes and was sold to the United States Government for \$26,800.

When the government became the owner of Arlington the war had already created an urgent need for national cemeteries in the Washington area. Following the battles fought in the area of the capital, the dead and dying were brought to Washington. With scores of Union and Confederate dead dying in the makeshift hospitals as each week passed burial locations were needed. Authority for military cemeteries rested with Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs. Raised in Georgia Meigs turned anti-southern with a deep hatred for his old commander, Robert E. Lee. In 1864 Secretary of War Edwin Stanton ordered Meigs to create a national cemetery near Washington, Meigs ordered no surveys of other sites, but immediately



recommended that the 200 acres of the Arlington estate closest to the Custis house be transformed into a burying ground for Union dead.

Meigs ordered the first soldiers' graves dug in Mrs. Lee's rose garden in May 1864. By the end of 1864, over 7,000 graves spread across the area known as the Field of the Dead. Among these graves was Meigs son John Rogers Meigs killed by Confederate guerillas. By war's end, more than 16,000 Union graves surrounded Arlington House on three sides. The markers on these graves are inscribed as "Unknown U.S. Soldier." By the end of the war, several hundred Confederate dead lay in graves scattered about Arlington. Most of these men had died as prisoners of war. Meigs refused the relatives of Confederate dead entry to the cemetery. On the first Decoration Day (now Memorial Day) in 1868 Meigs ordered Southern women who came to decorate Southern graves be turned away. Not until a new generation of national leaders took power and another war intervened would Confederate dead at Arlington be recognized. In 1900 Congress authorized a Confederate section within Arlington National Cemetery. More than 400 Confederate dead were gathered and reentered in the new Confederate section. In 1914 a Confederate monument, the largest memorial in the cemetery, was dedicated in the midst of the Southern dead.

Among the 200,000 veterans of America's wars and their dependents buried at Arlington National Cemetery, 20,000 are Civil War dead. More than four million tourists visit the cemetery each year while there they traverse sixteen miles of roads, most named for heroes of the Civil War. This cemetery that was created as an act of revenge upon Robert E. Lee by Montgomery Meigs, who is also buried there and for whom a drive is named has become the most hallowed ground in America.

May the dead of the American Civil War and of all our country's wars buried at Arlington National Cemetery "Rest in Peace" in this most hallowed ground.

#### **CIVIL WAR USAGE**

**DRESSED RATS**—Rodents sold in Southern butcher shops when "conventional" meats were not available.

**OBSERVER**—A military representative from a foreign country. Observers were often attached to a commanders staff as aides-de-camp and moved with the troops but did not take part in combat. Their role was to note what strategies and weapons were most effective and then to advise their governments. A substantial number traveled with both the Union and Confederate armies.

**ORDER OF BATTLE**—A specific and detailed battle plan, listing each unit of the army and giving the specific directives to these units in their engagement with the enemy.

**TO BE RELIEVED**—(1) To be released from a post of duty. (2) To be withdrawn from a position of battle when replaced by another unit. (3) To lose one's command and when replaced by an officer of higher rank.

**VEDETTE**—Also spelled vidette. A mounted sentinel on picket or guard duty.

#### **NO MAY QUIZ DUE TO EXTENDED MAY PROGRAM**

#### **MAY MEETING**

Our May meeting will be on **Tuesday May 8, 2007**, meeting time is **6:30 PM** at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Cutoff date for dinner reservations is **April 30, 2007** please call **610-683-4384** for reservations please call after **5PM** on weekdays or all day on the weekend. Dinner menu for the May meeting includes **Baked Ham Steak, Broiled Haddock and Yankee Pot Roast**. Dinner cost for our May meeting is \$18.00.

We have noted previously in the Newsletter that our May program will be a presentation on the Battle of Perryville by President Mike Gabriel and Vice-President Ron Rhein. As this is our

final meeting of our tenth campaign until September we look forward to a good turnout we hope to see as many members as we can for this final meeting. Good food, good program, good friends, all good reasons for joining fellow members on Tuesday May 8.

**LATE NEWS**

A late request to the Newsletter to place information on directions to the Lytle Hall parking lot to those going on the May field trip and coming from the Reading area.

Travel along Main Street in Kutztown to College Boulevard (it is named Normal Avenue on the opposite side of West Main Street). Traveling from Reading turn left onto College Boulevard, after about 3/10 mile you will be passing the Kutztown Fairgrounds on the right, on the left will be a bus shelter with Camillo's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria advertised on it, turn left and you will be facing towards the distant gigantic white KU tower, continue along this road and bear left past the Pennsylvania National Guard Armory and you will enter the Lytle parking lot.

That's it, see you all in May.

Tony Reilly Newsletter Editor  
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