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Campaign

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Sept 2005 - May 2006

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

SEPTEMBER 2005

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

September approaches and with it comes Civil War Round Table time. The First Defenders welcome back all members to a new season with a warm hello to old and new members. This September 2005 opens our ninth campaign and we can all view ourselves as veteran Round Table members and campaigners.

The two main issues reviewed at our May meeting were finalizing plans for our June field trip to Antietam and Harpers Ferry and the election of officers for the coming year. Our field trip is reviewed in this newsletter and a brief hint of that review is our trip was a great success.

Election of officers witnessed a major change as our President Dave Valuska advised the Round Table he would be stepping down as president after eight years. It is proper and needed that the Round Table extend our sincerest thanks to Dave for his contributions and leadership in guiding us through the early years of the Round Table. While giving up his position as president Dave will remain a member of the Board of Directors as President Emeritus and member at large. Your board of directors has requested the Newsletter extend the same salutations to Dave in working with the board the past eight years. We also extend our thanks to Charlotte Valuska for her kindness to the board on those occasions when she was a gracious host at dinners and meetings held at the Valuska home.

For your information here is a list of the present make-up of the Board of Directors: President Mike Gabriel, Vice President Ron Rhein, Secretary and Program Chairman Rich Kennedy, Solicitor Bob Grim, Preservation Chairman Tom Tate, Treasurer Arlan Christ, Membership Chairwomen Pat Christ, Newsletter Editor Tony Reilly, Field Trip Coordinators Dave Fox and Roger Cotterill, President Emeritus and Member at Large Dave Valuska.

At the coming September Round Table meeting a number of items will be reviewed with the membership. These include meal selections, opening membership to all on the waiting list, Christmas Program, January meeting Round Table discussion topic, future field trips and a backup for our book raffles. Other issues may develop by September's meeting. Any issues from the floor can also be introduced for discussion. Hopefully we will have a good turnout in September to help finalized most or all of these issues.

Our present Round Table treasury balance is \$2,681.22 Arlan will probably update this report in September.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Our table is a bit limited for this month but here are a few items to think about.

---In 1863 the construction of the London underground railroad began.

---Victor Hugo released his novel "Les Miserables" in 1862.

---A bond of \$1,000,000 was posted to free Jefferson Davis from prison after the war.

---\$15.5 million the amount paid by England after the war to settle damages done by the CSS Alabama.

---On his way to be executed John Brown made this brief comment, "This is a beautiful country." For Mr. Brown much to little and much to late.

BOOK RAFFLE/PRESERVATION

Tom Tate's report notes a carry over in preservation funds of \$80.00 from last year. Gifts of \$500.00 to Civil War Preservation Trust toward the purchase of the Daniel Lady Farm located east of Gettysburg on the Hanover Road and the location of Major General Edward Johnson's 6,000 man battle line prior to his assaults on Culp's Hill and \$250.00 to Kernstown had been approved at the May meeting. A future presentation gift will be reviewed for a western battlefield site. This site will be recommended by Mike Gabriel and Ron Rhein our western specialist at a future meeting.

Tom indicated that member Russell Angstadt has volunteered to be a back up for the monthly raffle in case Tom can't make a future meeting. Russell will receive a supply of books from Tom at the September meeting for use in Tom's absence. The Round Table thanks and appreciates Russell's helpful offer.

MAY PROGRAM REVIEW

Our May program was a presentation on the Battle of Chickamauga by members Mike Gabriel and Ron Rhein. As they have done in the past, and hopefully will do in the future, our speakers took one of the great battles of the Civil War, and certainly a battle of great confusion, and provided us with a fine presentation on this battle. The difficulty in speaking on this battle is supported by the historian Shelby Foote who used the term "confused" to describe the battle. Our speakers opened their remarks by stating Chickamauga was a "mad irregular battle resembling guerilla warfare." By identifying this battle as "irregular and guerilla warfare" we can accept the premise it was a battle that departed from the usual and accepted state of warfare. Chickamauga was not so much a battle of great command decisions as it was a soldier's battle. A battle of close encounters, limited use of cannon and battle lines that did not often exist where enlisted men made tactical decisions. Hand to hand fighting where generals realized that the fields where the men fought was not so much their choice but perhaps the choice of fate. It was a strategic nightmare for the generals on both sides who fought under adverse and questionable conditions. It was a tactical nightmare for the men as they fought with little or no supervision.

Our speakers spoke of the Federal Army of the Cumberland and the Confederate Army of Tennessee as the two armies that maneuvered for mastery of a large area encompassing eastern Tennessee and northern Georgia. The objective of the Federal Army was Chattanooga, Tennessee home to some 2,500 people and a growing commercial center. Four major railroads entered Chattanooga and made it an important military objective to both sides due to the logistical difficulties of the area. The resources found in this area were vital to the Confederacy's war making potential. Quantities of food and animals, significant amounts of niter to make gunpowder and 90% of the Confederacy's copper for percussion caps and artillery projectiles. The area also provided a strategic shield for the heartland of Alabama and Georgia.

The area had the same values for the Union for their own use or to deny these resources to the Confederacy. A most important reason to gain possession of the area by the Federals was to free and protect thousands of citizens in eastern Tennessee, northern

Georgia and northeastern Alabama who had remained loyal to the Union for attacks upon them for that loyalty. To obtain these objectives the Union Army of the Cumberland was commanded by General William Starke Rosecrans who our speakers identified as a good fighter, a man of detail, a West Point graduate in 1842, ranking fifth in a class of fifty-six. A man of great energy who drove himself and his subordinates unmercifully. They noted Rosecrans army movements were to be coordinated with those of General Ambrose Burnside's Army of the Ohio whose objective was Knoxville, Tennessee.

Facing Rosecrans army was its old nemesis from Perryville and Stones River, the Army of Tennessee, commanded by General Braxton Bragg. Bragg also was a product of West Point, graduating fifth in 1837. General Bragg was a man of discipline, rigid, brusque, unsociable and disliked by everyone excepting Jefferson Davis and possibly his wife. At this point in their presentation our speakers took us on a prelude to the battle and then a fair review of the battle. Time did not permit great details of the fight. The Union took Chattanooga on 9-8-1863 without much of a fight, crossing the Tennessee River both sides became involved in a battle of maneuver. At McLemore's Cove Bragg saw an opportunity to destroy Federal forces in that area before they could receive help. The Federal Army had been split into three forces each one in corps strength. Bragg's plan unraveled because his subordinates bungled the opportunity to cripple Rosecrans largest corps, the Fourteenth under General George Thomas in the area of the Cove. Bragg would again try to defeat the Federals before they would concentrate but he did not succeed his best opportunity had been at the Cove. Throughout this battle both commanders had trouble with their subordinates. The brunt of the fighting in this battle took place on September 19-20, 1863. As this battle progressed the generals could do little but send in men to reinforce the soldiers doing the fighting. On the 19th Union General George Thomas and Confederate General Leonidas Polk's forces bore the bulk of the fighting by days end both sides had little to show for their efforts. On the 20th General Bragg planned to attack the Federal left the northern sector of the Union line. Despite some success the Union left held off the heavy Confederate attacks. It was on this day that General James Longstreet's wing broke through the Federal line and created what may have been the Confederate's major success in this battle. Longstreet's attack hit a gap in the Federal line left open by a Union error in movement of their troops. The Federal forces in this area hit by Longstreet were shattered and the Federal line was driven back. General Rosecrans unable to rally his troops around him fled the field thinking his army was being destroyed.

General George Thomas remained on the field with his men he withdrew them to Snodgrass Hill and reformed the Union line. With assistance and cooperation from Colonel John Wilder's cavalry and General Gordon Granger's Reserve Corps, who advanced to Thomas's assistance without orders, Thomas was able to protect his lines until dark before receiving orders to withdraw. The work of General Thomas in this action led to his becoming called "The Rock of Chickamauga." As darkness covered the battlefield on the 20th few on either side were aware the battle had ended. During the night the Federals withdrew toward Chattanooga Bragg's army held the field but he had lost 18,454 men killed, wounded and missing. The Federals were also hurt having lost 16,170 men killed, wounded and missing. This battle fought in a heavy wooded area permitted little or no tactical control of units was one of the bloodiest of the war.

Our speakers noted that although a Union defeat in the battle, Chattanooga remained in Federal hands, both Rosecrans and the Army of the Cumberland could truthfully claim that the objective of the campaign had been achieved. For the South the great victory at Chickamauga would remain incomplete. While our speakers provided praise and insight on a number of the generals who fought in this battle the battle remained a soldiers fight. Perhaps all battles are soldiers' fights since it is they who do the fighting and the dying.

As they have done in the past Mike and Ron gave us a fine program on a great battle of the Civil War. The Round Table thanks are western specialist and as noted before we will look forward to a future presentation on the western theater.

FIELD TRIP REVIEW

Our June field trip got off to a "good news" start, for the first time in four years we did not have rain. As for any "bad news" well this trip had none. I will open the review by stating this was not only a great field trip to the battlefields we visited it was also a trip where we all had a lot of fun. All thanks must go to our trip leaders Richard and Cathy Kennedy and the great group of people who took the trip. Rich and Cathy did a great job, as always, the Round Table owes them a big thank you.

Leaving the Lytle Hall parking lot about 6:15 AM we arrived at the Antietam Visitor's Center about 9AM where we spent sometime browsing and viewing a film on the battle in the Center's theater. We departed the Center and joined our guide Rich Kohr, who led us on the tour of the Antietam Battlefield. A brief driving tour took us on a review of the Union positions prior to the start of the battle. This covered points in the area of the North woods holding General Hooker's First Corps and then the area from which General Mansfield's Twelfth Corps began it's attack. We passed the location where General Mansfield received his mortal wound. Our first bus stop was at a point west of the Hagerstown Turnpike at the northern edge of the West woods. Our guide gave an overview of what took place in the areas we could see from this point. Rich addressed General Hooker's First Corps attack south along the Hagerstown Turnpike, General Alpheus Williams, commanding the Twelfth Corps following Mansfield's mortal wound, this corps attack south and southwest and the Confederate forces under General Jackson defending against these attacks. Most of this action took place in the historic areas of the East Woods, the Cornfield, the Miller Farm and the Dunker Church. Rich identified the fighting in the Cornfield as a high point of this fight with the action taking place between 6 and 9AM. The cost in killed and wounded in this phase of the battle was some 8,000 casualties combined for Americans both North and South.

Our speaker then reviewed the attack of the Federal Second Corps, Second Division with General Edwin Sumner Corps commander leading the charge of General John Sedgwick's division. This attack drove west through the Cornfield area over the Hagerstown Pike and deep into the West Woods and into complete disaster. This attack was flanked and hit in the rear by Confederate forces and resulted in 40% casualties, some 2,255 men, in 15 minutes of fighting.

We then moved to the Sunken Road, also identified as Bloody Lane, and after a review of the fighting at this point we had an opportunity to walk the Lane. A walk on what is truly hallowed ground for both North and South. Casualties in fighting in the Sunken Road were 2,600 Confederate and 3,000 Union. Our last stop at Antietam was the area of the Burnside Bridge the final phase of this great battle. Rich's comments at this location centered on the Union's effort to cross and take the bridge this was accomplished

about 1PM by two Federal Regiments, the 51st New York and the 51st Pennsylvania. We then toured the areas west of the Burnside Bridge and south of the town of Sharpsburg. This ended our battlefield tour of Antietam. Throughout this tour many comments and questions were put to and made by our guide that added greatly to the tours enjoyment. Antietam was a tactical draw but a strategic defeat for the South. General George B. McClellan received poor marks for his work at Antietam. McClellan devoted himself to not losing rather than fighting to win. Colonel Ezra Carmen of the 13th New Jersey Regiment said it best when he noted "more errors were committed by the Union commander than in any other battle of the war."

Following lunch we moved to the South Mountain area and toured these battlefield sites. We visited all three Gaps, Turner, Fox and Crampton stopping only at Crampton's Gap. The fighting at South Mountain took place on September 14 three days prior to Antietam and had a great impact on what would take place at Antietam. The defense of the South Mountain Gaps proved costly for the Confederates who lost some 2,700 men, Federal casualties were about 1,800 men. This fight was a solid Federal victory that led General Lee to decide not to stop at Sharpsburg but to cross the Potomac and return to Virginia and end his invasion plans of the North. However, General Jackson's success at Harper's Ferry led Lee to change his mind and fight at Antietam. This ended our Saturday tours. We spent the night at a Hampton Inn in Hagerstown and had dinner at the Old South Mountain Inn atop Turner's Gap John Powell our guide for Sunday joined us at dinner and provided a preview of our Sunday tour. It was a long day but a good one.

On Sunday morning we picked up our guide at the Harper's Ferry Visitor Center and began our tour with a visit to Bolivar Heights the location of the Federal line of defense on September 15. John reviewed the battle and identified key positions held by Confederate forces under General Jackson. He pointed to the locations of Maryland Heights and Loudoun Heights key positions occupied by Confederate troops. The Union forces on Bolivar Heights were surrounded by infantry and artillery and surrendered some 12,500 troops on the 15th to General Jackson. Mr. Powell noted the only positive action by Federal forces at Harper's Ferry was on the night of September 14 when 1,500 Union Cavalry escaped Jackson's trap by crossing the Potomac on a pontoon bridge. The Federal force was command by Colonel Benjamin Grimes Davis of the Eighth New York Cavalry. The Union commander who surrendered the Harper's Ferry force was Colonel Dixon S. Miles who was killed by artillery while the surrender order flashed along Bolivar Heights. Like McClellan at Antietam Colonel Miles efforts at Harper's Ferry were very poor. Many Federals believed Miles had sold them out some believed he was a traitor.

The remainder of our day was visiting locations and sites of interest in Harper's Ferry. We began our trip home about 3:30PM. We had a great trip as always much more could be written about the battles but there are many great books available on Antietam that can satisfy anyone's interest. We again extend our thanks to Rich and Cathy and to our guides who all did a fine job.

I close this review with this comment regarding Lee's Maryland Campaign. The comment is by noted historian Gary Gallagher. "The nature of the conflict changed because of Lee's Maryland Campaign. The South might have won the old war...but the new war would admit of no easy reconciliation because the stakes had been raised to encompass the culture and entire social fabric of the South."

DID YOU KNOW

18 TO 45

Federal regulations required "fighting men" to be at least eighteen years old but no more than forty-five years old to serve in the Union Army. Although this age was well known, findings of the U S Sanitary Commission indicated that 2,366 fighting men were fifty or more years old. At the bottom of the age range, 6,425 soldiers were listed as being seventeen years old. The names of 2,758 sixteen year olds were recorded, and 2,758 adolescents went into the ranks at age fifteen. From that point, numbers drop sharply. Only 773 fourteen-year old soldiers in blue were tabulated, thirteen year olds numbered only 330, and a mere 127 boys were toting muskets by the time they were twelve.

A number of drummer boys were probably younger than twelve but the term "fighting men" did not apply to them. If we combine the above numbers we have 15,537 "men" both over and under the Federal regulations for military age. Looks like 18 to 45 had a "bit" of a stretch to it.

FOUR DEADLY DAYS

Although exact figures were not preserved, Confederate reports indicate that nearly nine thousand men died during the Vicksburg campaign. Federal losses were slightly higher. Since all who surrendered when the siege of Vicksburg ended became prisoners and were counted as casualties, the river city was the focal point of action during which about fifty thousand men lost their lives or freedom on or before July 4, 1863. Three days of furious fighting at Gettysburg, ending on July 3, 1863 led to an estimated fifty-one thousand casualties. Combined, the battle in the East and the siege in what was then known as the West produced over 100,000 casualties surely the most deadly four-day period in the annals of the nation. Casualties at the rate of 833 per hour around the clock and 14 per minute during July 1 thru 4, 1863 support the view and fact of four deadly days.

CIVIL WAR USAGE

BLACK FLAG POLICY---A policy of taking no prisoners. The black flag referred to the skull and cross bones of pirates, who showed no mercy to their captives. During the Civil War the black flag was discussed but rarely practiced. Since it was considered an unpopular tactic, there is little record of Northern troops flying the black flag in combat. What few references appear in the records are largely laid at the feet of Confederate forces.

EFFECTIVES---Combatants present and ready for duty.

ENVELOPMENT---An offensive move to gain a position at the flank or rear of an opponent from which enfilading fire could be directed.

POINT BLANK---A distance so short that a projectile travels in a straight line to the target with no degradation in the flight of the bullet, shot or shell.

RANK---(1) A body of soldiers standing side by side. (2) A soldier's official position or grade, usually certified by commissions in the case of officers.

SEPTEMBER QUIZ

Q.1 When we speak of casualties in the American Civil War we generally address combatants. However, civilian deaths in the South were widespread, can you provide a fair estimate of war-related civilian deaths in the Confederacy?

Q.2 The West Point Class of 1830 produced two Confederate commanders of some fame, Major General John B. Magruder and Brigadier General William N. Pendleton and an obscure Union Brigadier General Robert C. Buchanan. However, it may be that its most famous class member was one who dropped out in his second year. Name the West Point dropout?

Q.3 This Union general officer came east to Washington D.C. with a great deal of excitement. Despite what could be called a lifetime of achievement he has been little remembered in the nation's history. Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles spoke of him with these words: "he originates nothing, anticipates nothing, takes no responsibility, plans nothing, suggest nothing and is good for nothing." High praise indeed who is this little remembered general officer?

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our September meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday September 13, 2005**. Meeting time is 6:30PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Members are requested to make dinner reservations by our cutoff date **Monday September 5, 2005**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-4384**. Please make your calls for reservations after 5PM, when leaving a message please speak clearly providing your name and dinner selection.

For our September meeting we will have only two dinner selections to choose from this is a change from past years. The issue of selecting from two or three choices will be reviewed at the September meeting the issue has to do with dinner cost. For September dinner selections will be **Grilled Honey Mustard Salmon and Grilled Marinated Chicken Breast with Mushrooms**. Our dinner price is \$16.00

We open our program schedule in September with a presentation on "Roy Stone's Bucktail Brigade." Colonel Stone's brigade was made up with the 143rd, 149th and 150th Pennsylvania Regiments with the 149th and 150th carrying the identity of "Bucktails." The 143rd Regiment did not aspire to the bucktail identity but was an important member of the brigade. Our speaker will be Mr. Rich Kohr who so ably led our tour group at Antietam. This will be a fine start to our program schedule for this campaign don't miss this kick off meeting. Following is a list of our program schedule for this year.

October-----Jerry McCormick portraying "Andrew Atkinson Humphreys"

November--Boone Bartholmew: "Military Staffing"

December--Festive Christmas Musical Program

January-----Annual Round Table Discussion: "Longstreet or Jackson, Who made the Greater Contribution to the Confederate Cause."

February---Gerry Zieber: "An Overview of James Buchanan"

March-----Patrick Fairbairn portraying "Rufus Ingalls"

April-----Jane Peters-Estes: "Lifestyles of Women During the 1860's"

May-----Drs. Mike Gabriel & Ron Rhein: "Chattanooga and Missionary Ridge"

Any changes in the schedule will be noted as soon as they are available.

Our last item in this newsletter is to review the attached "Renewal Membership Form." Please address this important issue as soon as possible and return your renewal by October 11, 2005 or sooner. Membership dues remains the same for the coming year \$15.00. See you in September. Tony Reilly---Newsletter Editor

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

OCTOBER 2005

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Our September meeting opened our ninth campaign and some 63 members and guest were in attendance. President Mike Gabriel went right to work introducing a number of business items for membership review. The first item discussed was the number of menu choices to present to the membership prior to a meeting and the associated cost of the choices. We offered two choices for our September meeting, a change from past years, and noted in the September Newsletter this issue would be reviewed at that meeting. Member comments at the September meeting suggested a strong interest in three choices, but some concern for the additional \$1.00 cost for the meals. After some discussion Mike requested a show of hands in favor of two or three choices. Three choices was the majority selection, with that choice effective with the October meeting we will offer three meal choices to members and the new meal cost will be \$17.00 per meal.

In the past we restricted membership to 100 with some slight variations each year. At the meeting the Board of Directors recommended we open membership to any interested party. This was approved by members attending with an understanding that at some future time if the number requesting membership would increase to a number that would cause manageable problems regarding meeting location, meals and any other questionable issue we would review the open membership decision. Hopefully open membership will provide an increase in meeting attendance.

President Gabriel announced our Christmas (December) meeting would be a musical program. The program will be "Echoes of the Civil War" presented by the Purcell Family. Mike noted Christmas music would be included with this presentation. This should be an entertaining evening for all members.

Mike reviewed our program choice for the January Round Table discussion "Longstreet or Jackson Who made the Greater Contribution to the Confederate Cause." Two men of great note in the Confederacy, both men made positive contributions during their service. All member comments will be looked forward to, let's hope for a lively discussion.

Mike concluded his business report by advising Russell Angstadt would serve as a back up for our monthly book raffle in the absence of Tom Tate. Tom added the comment he has provided Russ with a number of books should Russ be required to step in at a future meeting.

Rich Kennedy gave the members present a review of our July Board of Directors meeting with most of the items discussed at the board meeting covered by Mike's business report. Rich also gave a financial review of our June field trip. Rich reviewed initial plans for a one-day field trip this year to Gettysburg to visit the sites of the third day battlefields. Stay tuned more to come on this issue.

Arlan and Pat Christ were not available to attend this meeting due to a business trip. There was no treasurer's or membership report to provide. We should have these reports available at the October meeting.

One last business item if you have not returned your "Renewal Membership Form" please don't forget us. Pat Christ would like to complete this task by October 11 or sooner. To those who have taken care of this matter the Round Table thanks you and we're happy to have you back.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Jack Gurney provided an interesting item for review a Burnside Rifle from the Burnside Rifle Company of Providence, Rhode Island. This weapon, not as prominent in use during the war, was a 54 Caliber Percussion Breech Loader. This weapon had broader use by Cavalry than Infantry. The Burnside Arms are of special collector interest due to the identity of their designer, Union General Ambrose E. Burnside. Our thanks to Jack for providing this interesting item.

A second item available for review was a letter hand written by "Stonewall" Jackson dated October 23, 1861 and addressed to "Maggie." I did not get the name of the member who provided the letter I apologize and thank the provider of the letter. By the way who "Maggie" was seems to be in question. Anyone know let us know.

Now a few items of interest.

---Following the Battle of Gettysburg the retreating C.S.A. wagon train stretched some 29,900 yards.

---Because of inflation in the Confederacy, by late 1862 the price of a pound of tea was Ten dollars.

---Embalms preparing Union fighting men for burial charged their families by rank, Twenty dollars for a private and up to One Hundred dollars for a general officer.

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

BOOK RAFFLE/PRESERVATION

Tom Tate reports September raffle sales raised \$113.00 for battlefield preservation. We carried over \$80.00 from last years campaign so we now have \$193.00 in the preservation fund. Our Round Table ended last season with total contributions over the life of the Round Table amounting to \$10,290.00. Not bad, not bad at all!

Tom notes our supply of books is good and members continue to donate. Tom and the Round Table thank all buyers and contributors.

Here is a review of Preservation gifts during our eighth campaign. December 2004 to Central Virginia Battlefield Trust for Chancellorsville \$400.00, March 2005 to Harper's Ferry \$500.00, May 2005 to Gettysburg \$500.00 and to Kernsville Battlefield Association \$250.00. Total for campaign eight \$1,650.00. Remember a number of our contributions over the years had matching funds applied to them. Those gifts with matching funds would considerably enhance our total figures.

Thanks to all let's keep up the good work with smart gifts and generous hearts.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM REVIEW

Our opening program for this our ninth campaign was a presentation on "Roy Stone's Bucktail Brigade." Our speaker was Mr. Rich Kohr who so ably led our recent tour group at Antietam. Our speaker's presentation centered on Colonel Stone's brigade of Pennsylvanians and their position in the Union Army First Corps on day one, July 1,

1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg. Mr. Kohr identified the regiments of the brigade as the 149th, 143rd and 150th Pennsylvania. Two regiments the 149th and 150th bore the title of "Bucktails," the 143rd regiment did not aspire to the bucktail identity but was an important member of the brigade. The "Bucktails" were identified by deer tails curled around their caps in imitation of Colonel Stone's former regiment, the 13th Pennsylvania Reserves, also designated the 42nd Pennsylvania Regiment the original bucktails. Rich noted Stone had intended to form a brigade of marksmen modeled after his original bucktails. However, this project did not work since the brigade had no special "shooters" above the marksmanship of any other brigade. Roy Stone had recruited and commanded the 149th in August 1862. He took command of the brigade in February 1863 and a Lt. Colonel Walton Dwight stepped into command of the 149th. Stone's brigade participated in a limited way at Chancellorsville, but Gettysburg would be their first major trial in battle.

When the brigade arrived on McPherson Ridge on July 1 they were posted on the right of the famed Iron Brigade. The 150th between the McPherson house and the woods, the 143rd in the center by the house and barn and the 149th on the brigade right with some troops in the McPherson's lane and the remainder in a "dry ditch" beside the Chambersburg Pike. The companies of the 149th along the pike were just north of the McPherson barn. Mr. Kohr then proceeded to provide a very detailed review of the action in this area and the "Bucktail Brigade" response. The brigade received heavy fire from some twenty seven Confederate guns, artillery, located on Herr's Ridge which was west of the brigade, and from Confederate artillery located on Oak Hill north of the brigade's position. This fire enfiladed the brigade position especially the 149th making that regiments situation "hazardous and difficult in the extreme." Our speaker noted one of the difficulties of facing artillery fire is that men can not fight back.

While the "Bucktail" positions in the line was initially designed to meet Confederate infantry attacking from the west probably most of the brigades fight was against the Confederate infantry of Junius Daniel's Brigade attacking from the area of Mummasburg Road and the Forney Woods. Mr. Kohr reviewing the Confederate attacks and the "Bucktails" response to those attacks stated the "railroad cut" played an important part in the tactics employed by both forces. This was a hard fight with both sides taking heavy casualties. With the passing of time during the day Confederate pressure on Stone's Brigade continued and Confederate infantry under Colonel Brockenbrough attacking from the west added additional pressure forcing the "Bucktails" to begin a fighting retreat to Seminary Ridge where the Union First Corps formed a temporary battle line.

One of the high points of our speaker's presentation was his review of Colonel Stone's attempt to deceive the enemy by moving the colors of the 149th from their present line to a point where the enemy might readily see them but away from the regiment's actual position. Stone ordered Color Sgt. Henry Brehm, of Myerstown, and five other men of the regiment's color guard to relocate the national and state flags some 50 yards north of the pike position of the 149th. The tall wheat in the field gave cover to the men and the new flag position provided for a successful diversion. The Confederates shifted their fire from the 149th position toward the new flag position. Rich reviewed the attempts by Mississippians to capture the flags and the fate of the six men of the color guard.

Our speaker also provided us with the story of the Yankee color bearer who floated his standard in the face of the enemy by shaking his fist at the advancing Confederates.

He was shot and killed, veterans identified him as Sgt. Benjamin H. Crippen the 143rd color bearer. A monument with a granite likeness of Crippen holding his flag shaking his fist is located on McPherson Ridge as a memorial to him.

Colonel Stone entered the battle with more than 1,315 men, and by the end of this battle the brigade suffered 853 casualties a rate of nearly 65% most sustained on July 1, 1863. By regiment the 143rd 253, 149th 336 and the 150th 264. In his presentation Mr. Kohr gave numerous comments on individuals and their part in this first days action his comments were detailed and his background of the subject was outstanding. This was a fine opening program for our new year. The Round Table thanks our speaker for his visit with us and for the great presentation.

I offer a concluding note if any member is interested in a very detailed study of Stone's Brigade at Gettysburg on the first day the book "Gettysburg-The First Day" by Harry W. Phanz, Chapter 15 "Daniel Strikes Stone" and Appendix B "The Color Episode of the 149th P.V.I." will provide very clear detailed reading on this subject.

DID YOU KNOW

Desertion is a barometer of an army's morale. The desertion rate of any military force reflects the level of its fighting spirit. Almost 2,000 years ago a Roman historian stated that the desertion of an enemy's soldiers had a greater effect on its army than battlefield casualties. Desertion both depletes an army's numbers and severely undermines its resolve. Men falling in battle serve as an example for those who survive. Deserters not only take themselves out of the contest, they cause those who remain to question the wisdom of their continued service.

The armies of the American Civil War proved uniquely susceptible to desertion, and the problem plagued both sides throughout the war. In 1862, Robert E. Lee complained that desertion so depleted his army that the government's policy of leniency that prevented him from executing deserters would only compound the problem. Available estimates place Union desertion at 200,000 and Confederates at 104,000. Desertion records, however, reflect only estimates based on those not present for duty or otherwise unaccounted for as dead, wounded, captured or hospitalized. The above numbers are at best only an estimate. Union desertion figures may reflect the repeated desertion of certain soldiers, a practiced common among men called bounty jumpers. These men continued to reenlist just to collect the awarded enlistment bounties. By strict definition, desertion was leaving the military with no intent to return. As the war progressed a variety of conduct was viewed as evasion of duty, straggling, skulking, fighting in the wrong unit and at times temporary absence were considered desertions.

Motives causing desertion were poor food, boredom, unhealthy camp conditions, fear of death and homesickness both sides were affected by these factors. Soldiers close to home were especially sensitive to family problems and any bad news from home contributed to a desertion. Unfulfilled promises of food, clothing and shelter for families of Confederate soldiers weaken their commitment to the army.

After conscription in the South in 1862 and the North in 1863 men unwilling to fight who were called to service looked for any way to desert. Wealthy individuals from both regions could purchase substitutes and this caused great morale problems for both armies. The South's increasing economic instability meant many families could not cope in the absence of fathers, sons, husbands and brothers. Confederate elimination of furloughs and

a policy of enlistments binding men to the duration of the war made desertions very appealing as the war dragged on into its third and later years.

One unique aspect of the Civil War was that each side used desertion to deplete the other's army. Both sides used inducements to get soldiers to desert. The Confederacy offered sanctuary, civilian jobs and in some cases land. The North offered similar opportunities plus payment at fair value for any equipment turned into the army. Many Confederates swore an oath of allegiance and joined the Federal army for service in the west.

Desertion drained not only the armies but also civilians. Certain regions, primarily in the South, became "deserter country." The mountains of Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and Kentucky provided safe haven for deserter bands. These regular groups preyed on the civilian populations and caused Union and Confederate commanders severe security problems for most of the war. Perhaps the biggest problems for deserters was at wars end when they had to chose going home as dishonored men or staying away with no home or country to return to.

CIVIL WAR USAGE

GENTLEMAN PRIVATE---A son of a plantation owner or respected professional who was eligible for an officer's commission but who preferred to fight as a private.

TAR HEEL---A native of North Carolina. The tar of the Civil War was thickened turpentine, or pine tar, which was a principal product of coastal North Carolina.

SET-PIECE BATTLE---A precisely planned engagement or campaign between two maneuvering forces. Most of the battles of the Civil War were set-piece played out between two opposing commanders.

TO QUARTER---To assign men to battle stations in preparation for an engagement.

ABSENTEE---A soldier not present for duty but not listed as a deserter, a straggler, or absent without leave.

OCTOBER QUIZ

Q.1 How many casualties were the result of the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter and during the surrender ceremony following the bombardment?

Q.2 This is a question of battles with two names. Listed are the Union names of five battles, Pea Ridge, Fair Oaks, South Mountain, Chaplin Hills and Opequan Creek. Can you identify the Confederate names for these battles?

Q.3 We generally accept the fact that the Confederate Government was made up of eleven states. However, on November 28, 1861 the Confederate Congress in Richmond admitted a twelfth Confederate State. Identify this twelfth Confederate State?

OCTOBER MEETING

Our October meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday October 11, 2005**. Meeting time is 6:30PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Members are requested to make dinner reservations by our cutoff date **Monday October 3, 2005**. Please call **610-683-4384** for reservations and call after 5PM. Menu selections for October are **Baked Ham Steak, Broiled Haddock and Baked Ziti with Meatballs**. Our new dinner price is \$17.00 per meal.

Our October program will be a portrayal of Union General Andrew A. Humphreys by Mr. Jerry McCormick. General Humphreys was a fine officer who served his country well. Hope to see all in October. Tony Reilly Newsletter Editor 610-921-3131.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

NOVEMBER 2005

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Attendance at our October meeting was 56 members and guest. President Mike Gabriel opened a brief business meeting with a request for a treasurer's report. Arlan Christ stated we had a balance of \$2,681.22 as of August 20, 2005, we had new income of \$2,199.00 and new expenses of \$1,305.87 this gives us a new balance of \$3,574.35 as of October 11, 2005.

Pat Christ gave a membership report of 89 members paid for our ninth campaign this includes dues from 7 new members. We have an important request regarding membership. Any of our members who receive a newsletter but have not paid their annual dues for our ninth campaign, please help us by addressing your renewal by our November meeting. Anyone on the newsletter list not paid by the November meeting will be removed from the mailing list. If you wish to continue your membership, and we hope you do, please help us with this important issue.

Mike again noted next springs field trip will be a one-day trip to Gettysburg and a visit to the day three battlefield areas.

We have another important request to make of the membership. When you attend our meetings you receive a meal ticket identifying your meal choice. Please take and leave the meal ticket at the seat location you select for the evening program and meeting. This will assist the restaurant on locating what meals go to the proper seat locations. We ask you to please consider this request and we thank you for your cooperation.

Keep in mind we now have an open membership if you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a member invite them to a meeting an encourage them to consider membership.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Jack Gurney provided a handgun for our review at the meeting .The weapon was a Roger and Spencer Army Revolver 44 Caliber percussion six shot with a 7 1/2 octagonal barrel weighing 2 pounds and 4 ounces. This weapon was produced in Willow Dale, New York in 1864. Some 5,000 units were purchased by the U.S. Government, however, the weapon had limited use during the Civil War. Jack noted he purchased the handgun from a man who was going to turn it into the police department for a small fee. Jack said his offer was more to the owner's interest. Thanks again Jack.

Civil War trivia for our History Table.

---John Sherman, a United States Senator from Ohio, later three times a presidential candidate, was the younger brother of General William T. Sherman.

---The loyalty of Admiral David G. Farragut, who was born in Tennessee, was questioned because of his southern roots.

---The price each Union cavalryman was charged each day for the use of his horse was .40cents.

---In 1864 Leo Tolstoy published "War and Peace."

BOOK RAFFLE/PRESERVATION

Ticket sales at our October meeting raised \$117.00 bringing our preservation fund to \$310.00. Tom thanks those members who have made book contributions to add to the supply of books we chance off at each meeting. Tom noted we remain pretty well supplied except that sometimes we don't have books to match our evening program.

Civil War Preservation Trust is working to raise funds for Wilson's Creek battlefield of 1861. This may be a candidate for our western contribution. The most important battlefield site that is recognized by all preservationist of note is Gaines' Mill/Cold Harbor. These two battles overlapped the same ground. The good news is the land is still in the family who has owned it since the 1840's. Present owner wants to keep on farming it and would like to see it preserved. The bad news is it is presently worth 15 million and getting more valuable each passing year. For the immediate future the ground is safe.

OCTOBER PROGRAM REVIEW

Our program for the evening was an in uniform, first person presentation of Union General Andrew Atkinson Humphreys. Our speaker was Mr. Jerry McCormick who came to us from the Wissahickon area of Philadelphia.

General Humphreys ranks among the finest soldiers of the Union Army of the Potomac. He was a native of Philadelphia born on November 2, 1810 into a distinguished family. Both his father and grandfather were noted shipbuilders; the latter designed the frigates Constitution, Constellation and United States. Humphreys attended West Point at the age of 17 in 1827 and graduated in 1831, ranking thirteenth in a class of thirty-three.

Our speaker spoke of his early years in the army as a Second Lieutenant of artillery and as a First Lieutenant in the Corps of Topographical Engineers. He also spent two years as a government appointed Civil Engineer during a two-year period out of the army. Returning to the military in 1838 he spent the next two decades engaged in various federal engineering projects. He was very accomplished in this type of work.

Humphreys spent the Civil War's early months in engineering assignments with a rank of major. In 1862 he was assigned to Major General George B. McClellan's staff. During the 1862 Peninsula Campaign he served as the Army of the Potomac's Chief Topographical Engineer with the rank of brigadier general of volunteers. Like many staff officers he desired a field command. In September 1862 he received a divisional command in the 5th Corps. His division saw little action in the Maryland Campaign of 1862. At the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862 his untried division performed heroically under his leadership. Our speaker noted that in this battle Humphrey's men, of all those who charged that ill-fated day, came closest to piercing the Confederate lines along the stone wall at Marye's Heights. Humphreys bravery and leadership won him both the respect of his troops and the esteem of his peers.

General Humphreys politely turned down an appointment as General Meade's Chief of Staff prior to Gettysburg preferring instead to continue field command. Assigned to command a division under General Sickles in the Third Corps he and his men fought doggedly and with honor against Confederate attacks along the Emmitsburg Road line on the second day of the battle. Gettysburg confirmed Humphreys reputation as one of the army's foremost officers on July 8, 1863 he was promoted to Major General of Volunteers and that same day he accepted Meade's offer as the Army of the Potomac

Chief of Staff. He served faithfully and capably for the next seventeen months, helping direct operations that brought the Army to the gates of Petersburg in June 1864.

Mr. McCormick noted General Humphreys did not have a great first impression of General Grant but this changed with the passing of time. After his service as Chief of Staff Humphreys yearned to return to battle, which he was fond of doing, as a field commander. On November 25, 1864 he was appointed command of the Army of the Potomac's 2nd Corps. He led his troops with distinction to the war's end. In 1866 he was named commander of the U S Army Corps of Engineers with the permanent rank of brigadier general. He retired from the army in 1879. During his retirement he wrote on various military topics. He died in Washington D.C., on December 27, 1883.

Our speaker noted that General Humphreys was never wounded in battle during a fifty-two year military career. While he was among the oldest of the corps commanders in the Army of the Potomac at the end of the war he was certainly one of the very best. Our speaker did a great impression of this fine officer and presented his story in a distinguished manner. The Round Table extends our thanks and appreciation to Mr. Jerry McCormick for a fine presentation and program.

DID YOU KNOW

THE ANTEBELLUM CADETS

They were the antebellum cadets of the United States Military Academy at West Point. They came as teenagers from every state in the Union, they wore every mode of dress from country homespun to tailored city suits and coats. And although these scrawny schoolboys could not foresee it, they would one day face each other in battle, friend against friend, leading rival American armies in a hard fought civil war. In their freshman year, they were officially known as plebes, though upper-classmen called them "things, animals, reptiles and beasts."

Despite their physical differences and social background, these young men were united by a shared distinction: each had passed stiff entrance requirements and each had received an appointment to the academy by a U. S. Congressman. They were no younger than sixteen and no older than twenty-one, measured at least five feet tall, had no deformities and they were fit for the rigors of military life and duty. Each accepted plebe had demonstrated proficiency in fundamental arithmetic and every one of them was single; even overtly having a girlfriend was grounds for dismissal.

This year West Point, I believe, celebrated its 203rd anniversary since it's founding. It may be accurately stated that one period stands out as the golden age of the academy along the Hudson River in New York State. It is the period from 1820 to 1861. With no disrespect to any other years, those years and the men they produced still color the way we look at West Point. It was the legacy of those years that Civil War professional officers embodied.

In appearance, cadets from West Point's golden age ranged from the misfit to the golden natural. In their abilities and character traits, whether Northern or Southern the range was much the same. These future commanders of Union and Confederate armies, corps, divisions came to the academy for all sorts of personal reasons. The lure of a fine education, service to country, the grandeur of military life with the romance and glory that came with it and an atmosphere of martial music, martial association and the "glory" of battle and war.

At West Point the course of study was referred to as "this nursery of military talent, this school of strategy and tactics, a prolific fountain of and for future glory and security." But cadets were basically there to be educated in mathematics and the sciences then called natural and experimental philosophy and then engineering. War was a secondary subject military strategy and tactics would occupy a small fraction of their final year.

The cadets first two years were consumed by algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus and other variable quantities of mathematic courses. This math made up 70% of the curriculum, and it was a grim reaper. Some students believed the casualties from the math courses were worse than those in any battle. Nine of every ten academic failures came from the demon subjects of mathematics. To place the math courses in their proper perspective one cadet wrote the following on the subject. "God damn all mathematics to the lowest depths of hell, may it be capable of bodily suffering and undergo such torments that the vilest fiend in hell shall shrink in horror at the sight." If a cadet survived mathematics, he survived West Point. In the antebellum years the institution was exclusively dedicated to minting engineers and scientists for the army and for the country.

Other subjects were part of the curriculum, French, Ethics or grammar and rhetoric, geography, ancient and modern history. In the last two years of classes, sciences kicked in plus civil and military engineering which included the arts of field and permanent fortifications. Infantry tactics, use of the sword and horseback riding eventually found their way into the course of study in these two years. The science of war climaxed a cadets West Point years.

While West Point produced engineers and scientist it also produced officers who fought and commanded during the Civil War. Of the 1008 Civil War general officers, 228 Union and 156 Confederate had West Point as their alma mater. This was about 38% of the total general officers in the Civil War. In addition many other graduates and many who did not graduate most probably served their countries with honor and distinction. West Point's antebellum age ended abruptly in April 1861 with the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter. Cadets of the class about to graduate left the academy immediately for the battlefields of the Civil War. Many graduates of previous years returned to arms to serve their countries to seek victory and glory. In our studies of the Civil War we know of many West Point men who found both their victories and glory. We also know of others who found an early grave.

To the antebellum cadets of West Point and those golden years, both North and South, we can say "on brave old Army team."

CIVIL WAR USAGE

BUCK AND BALL---A musket load made up of three-buckshot and a one-ounce ball, the whole of which was wrapped in paper. Used primarily by Confederates, the load was not effective beyond two hundred yards.

FLAG OFFICER---An officer in command of a squadron or fleet who was permitted to fly at the masthead of the ship he was aboard a flag or pennant designating both his rank and presence.

BOUGHT THE FARM---To die on the field of battle.

FIRING LINE---A line of as many as four ranks of men arrayed to mass their fire directly upon an opponent. If two or more ranks were involved, the men were required to aim, fire

and reload through a tightly choreographed drill so as to maximize their fire and reduce the chance for mishaps among their ranks.

FREIGHT TRAIN--An incoming projectile. The term referred to the scream of the shell in flight.

NOVEMBER QUIZ

Q.1 Following are quotes made by well-known Union and Confederate personnel during and after the war. Let's see if we can identify the author of each quote.

- a. "There is many a boy here today who look on war as all glory, but, boys, it is all hell."
- b. "The only good Indians I saw were dead."
- c. "Alas, my poor country! I know in my inner most heart she never had a truer servant."
- d. "My duty is to obey orders."
- e. "Give them cold steel."
- f. "Sic Semper Tyrannis! The South is avenged."

Q.2 General Lee's desperate attempted breakout from Grant's Petersburg strangle hold occurred on March 25, 1865. This last offensive thrust by the Army of Northern Virginia was led by what Confederate officer and what Federal position was targeted?

Q.3 In addition to the women who worked behind the scenes, there were women who enlisted as full-fledged soldiers during the Civil War. Can you estimate the number who enlisted?

NOVEMBER MEETING

November's meeting is scheduled for **November 8, 2005**. Meeting time is 6:30PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Members are requested to make dinner reservations by our cutoff date of **Monday October 31, 2005**. Please call **610-683-4384** for reservations and call after 5PM. Our menu selections for November are **Grilled Salmon, Roasted Chicken Brest and Baked Homestyle Meatloaf**. Please remember our new dinner price is \$17.00.

Our scheduled speaker for the November meeting was Mr. Boone Bartholmew who was to speak on the subject of "Military Staffing." However, Mr. Bartholmew was not able to honor his commitment at this time due to changes in his schedule. Program Chairman Rich Kennedy was able to obtain a replacement speaker for this evening's program. Our November speaker will be Millicent Sparks portraying Harriet Tubman. Millicent is on the staff at the Underground Railroad/Civil War Museum in Philadelphia. Rich noted the presentation will be "Harriet Tubman Speaks."

Most people know of Harriet Tubman as the conductor of the Underground Railroad she is less well known as a wartime nurse, and as a spy and scout for the Union Army. This should be a fine program plan to attend our November meeting.

One last reminder if you haven't sent in your renewal please do so we want you all back. Look forward to seeing everyone at the November meeting.

Newsletter Editor Tony Reilly
610-921-3131

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

DECEMBER 2005

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Our November meeting had a fine turnout of 71 members and guest. This was our largest turnout in sometime. We are hopeful this will continue in the coming months. Ron Rhein opened our meeting by advising the members we will have a musical program for our December meeting. Additional details on our December meeting will follow later in this newsletter.

Ron noted that Rich Kennedy plans to leave his assignment as program chairman at the end of this ninth campaign. Tom Tate will step into the program chairman assignment and we would like to add an additional member to work with Tom in this assignment any member who could help please let us know as soon as possible. We need help in this area please consider this request to help the Round Table in this important area.

Arlan Christ treasurer's report stated a balance as of 10-11-05 of \$3,574.35, new income \$1,249.00, new expenses \$1,212.87 providing a new balance as of 11-8-05 of \$3,610.48. This includes our preservation fund balance of \$560.00. This figure will change following our approved gift to Civil War Preservation Trust of \$500.00 and with November ticket sales of \$146.00.

Pat Christ membership report stated 106 members as of the November meeting with 13 members of this count new to the Round Table. The Round Table considers this a very positive view of our present membership numbers. We welcome all new members as First Defenders.

Dave Fox gave a review of our next field trip scheduled for June 10, 2006 a Saturday. We will visit the Gettysburg sites of Culp's Hill and the East Cavalry Battlefield and a guide has been obtained for the trip. More details will follow regarding the trip as we move closer to the June date. As always stay tuned!

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Jack Gurney provided an old weapon a 1780 Frontier Rifle at times referred to as a Pennsylvania and or Kentucky Rifle. This weapon was a 69 Caliber rifle it was 9 pounds, 1 ounce with a 60 inch overall length with a 40 inch smooth bore. The weapon was made by the Ben Davidson Company of Cincinnati, Ohio during the years 1700 to 1880. The rifle saw service in the French and Indian Wars and the American Civil War. Jack noted this rifle was even older than he was but some of us are not too sure about that.

Trivia time!

- In the election of 1860 just under 40% of the voters backed Abraham Lincoln, who had pledged to preserve the Union, whatever the cost.
- In 1860 the country had 30,500 miles of railroads, only 28% lay in Confederate territory.
- In 1860 the nation had a total of 1.4 million workers, 92% of these workers were in the North.

---As President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln's annual salary was \$25,000.

BOOK RAFFLE/PRESERVATION

Tom Tate reported we raised \$146.00 for preservation in ticket sales and donations at the November meeting. To all our new members we note that all monies raised by our book raffles go to preservation gifts that the Round Table membership approves.

The membership voted to approve a contribution to Civil War Preservation Trust to help save 52 acres at Champion Hill Battlefield in Mississippi. This was an important battle during the Vicksburg Campaign in 1863. Our Round Table has been planning to make a donation to a western battlefield for sometime. This contribution to a western site has been championed by our president Mike Gabriel and vice-president Ron Rhein who have presented the Round Table with a number of excellent programs on western battles our approved contribution will be \$500.00 and each of our dollars will be turned into a \$4.00 value. This funding arrangement will bring our gift to a \$2,000 value to be used toward the land purchase.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM REVIEW

The program for the November meeting was introduced by Andrew Coldren the Assistant Curator of the Philadelphia Civil War Railroad Museum providing some background information on the museum Mr. Coldren then introduced our speaker, Millicent Sparks, who entered the meeting and dining area with a "singing introduction" to begin her evening presentation. Dressed in the period costume of a slave girl, speaking with a slave accent, Millicent provided a first person presentation of Harriet Tubman, a black woman nicknamed "Moses." Most people know of Harriet Tubman as the conductor of the Underground Railroad, but she was much more.

Since I honestly did not hear much of Harriet's presentation that evening due to my location in the room I will try to touch on some key points in her life that hopefully she may have spoken of in her presentation. She was born in 1821 as a slave on a plantation in Dorchester County, on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Born some forty years before the Civil War began she was one of eleven children her given name was Araminta Ross, she later adopted her mother's name, Harriet which she carried to the end of her life. Early in her life she experienced all the brutality of the "peculiar institution," including the harsh demands of fieldwork and the intense scrutiny of domestic service. Harriet suffered a personal injury when she was hit in the head with a heavy object that gave her a long-term health problem for the rest of her life.

In 1849 Harriet, who had married a free black man named John Tubman in 1844, decided to break the slavery chain that bound her. Learning she was about to be separated from her family members she took matters in her own hands. Leaving her husband she fled north to Philadelphia and soon began the work of rescuing her relatives and other slaves as well. Tubman a small uneducated woman who never lost her slave accent became involved with various anti-slavery groups and was soon active in the Underground Railroad. Over the next decade, the last one before the war, she conducted some twenty hazardous missions into the South to bring more than 300 people to freedom. Among the rescued were her own parents, who eventually settled in Auburn, New York. A hard, tough, fearless and at times ruthless woman she came close to being caught several times, but always managed to elude her pursuers. So successful were her efforts that as early as 1851 Maryland planters were offering a reward of \$40,000 for her capture. In her work Tubman developed a network of friends and supporters and made

numerous speeches on behalf of the abolitionist cause. John Brown counted her among his friends. In 1868, Frederick Douglas honored Tubman with the words: "Excepting John Brown I know of no one who has willingly encountered more perils and hardships to serve our enslaved people than you have."

When the Civil War began, Tubman looked eagerly for a Union victory and the end to slavery. Neither of these goals came quickly as the war continued on. In 1862 Tubman continued her activism by traveling to the Carolina Sea Islands, where her fame had not reached, to serve the black community there. She also became involved in a number of military operations as a spy, scout, nurse, and in one instance, leader of a raiding party. Employed by General David Hunter, she was granted free passage on all federal government transports and access to provisions from Union Army commissaries. She was an appropriate choice for the work she did due to her familiarity with the region and in securing information from trusting slaves and free blacks.

Despite her courage and her hard labor for the Union and the cause of freedom, Tubman had difficulty after the war in persuading the Federal Government to grant her a pension. Success came after three decades of petitioning when she was granted \$20.00 per month for the rest of her life. Harriet Tubman died in 1913 at age 92, having continued throughout her later years to dedicate herself to social reform to help the relief and welfare of those freedoms she worked so hard to obtain. Although a legend, among slaves and within the Abolitionist community, Tubman never held a formal position with any organization. She supported herself as a lecturer and contributor to various journals, dictating what ever she wished to say, since she never learned to write.

In her presentation, with the accent, dress and gestures of a slave women, Millicent Sparks brought Harriet Tubman to life for us and helped us to recognize and understand the contributions of a remarkable women in a most difficult time in our nations past. Our thanks to Millicent for her excellent portrayal and presentation to our Round Table, I believe it was well received by all.

DID YOU KNOW

A NORTHERNER WITH AN IMPACT

In the decades before the Civil War, the development of the cotton industry fueled the economic growth and western expansion of the American South and played a major role in the rapid growth of the American economy overall. Until the 1790's the South grew and exported a small amount of cotton. Rice, tobacco and sugar were then the most lucrative crops raised in the American South. With the growing demand for cotton in the textile industry, both home and abroad, Southern planters worked to produce as much cotton as possible. Unfortunately high quality Sea Islands cotton, long-staple cotton, could only be grown within forty miles of the Atlantic coast. As a result, the production of Sea Islands cotton was limited.

American planters also grew Uplands cotton, short-staple cotton, a type inferior in quality to the desired long-staple Sea Islands cotton. Uplands cotton could be grown in the interior of the Southern states in greater quantities because of the warmer climate. Because the short-staple cotton was more difficult to separate the fiber from the seeds and the long-staple cotton available in smaller quantities, although easier to separate, planters raised less cotton than they could have sold. The separation process was time consuming and the labor requirements made cultivation a non-profitable venture.

In 1792 the United States exported 140,000 pounds of cotton. The labor to accomplish this was excessive for it took a slave an entire day to clean just one pound of cotton by hand. In 1793 all this would change. A young Northerner, a genuine "yankee," would create a simple machine that would have the greatest impact on the economic history of the South. Traveling toward a job in Charleston, South Carolina, as a tutor, twenty-seven year old Eli Whitney paused during his trip visiting the Georgia home of Revolutionary General Nathanael Greene to visit Greene's lovely young widow. Whitney never reached Charleston. Reputedly enamored with the Widow Caty Greene he stayed with her for three months and decided to give up his plan to work as a tutor. Whitney's education in New Haven, Connecticut did little to enhance his mechanical skills, but he had a natural aptitude that bordered on genius with mechanical items and issues. As he worked to repair broken implements and tools on the Greene property Mrs. Greene noted Whitney's mechanical proficiencies. Caty Greene asked him if he could perfect a machine to pull lint from the seeds of her Upland cotton. With his inventive mind Whitney worked for a week of intense effort to solve the problem to his satisfaction. The key idea came to Whitney during an afternoon walk with Mrs. Greene when he saw a cat trying to catch a chicken by reaching through the slats of a cage to grab the bird. The cat missed the chicken but it did grab a paw full of feathers. Whitney immediately went to his workshop and developed a model of a machine that would revolutionize the cotton industry and breathe new life into the dying institution of slavery.

Whitney's invention was a simple device consisting of two rollers set in a small wooden box. One roller had wire spikes similar to the paws of a cat the second roller was covered with bristles. The operator turned a handle as cotton was being fed into it, the first roller pulled lint from the seeds the second brushed the lint from the rollers and dropped it into a container. This simple cotton-cleaning machine was called a "cotton gin," the word gin is short for engine. This machine was so simple in design that a host of imitations were created before Whitney was issued a patent.

The cotton gin was so successful one operator could easily clean fifty pounds of cotton a day. By 1811 the United States exported 64 million pounds of cotton quite an enhancement over the 140,000 pounds in 1792. In 1840 the South produced 60% of the world's cotton, when the Civil War broke out cotton comprised half of all American exports. Whitney's gin probably brought the Southern economy back to life, but sadly from it slavery flourished as never before.

Whitney's second contribution to impact the country was a government contract in 1798 to produce 10,000 rifles in two years. He devised an ultra-radical concept that would have a definitive effect on the manufacture of goods and items that required similar and interchangeable parts. In his factory in New England he began producing interchangeable parts, all of which functioned flawlessly in any weapon he produced for the government. Because of precise measurements you had ease of assembly and ease of repair. Most important you had time saved in manufacturing large quantities of weapons at a considerable reduced cost. While the cotton gin aided the South the interchangeable parts concept aided the North. Whitney's inventions certainly helped both North and South in the Civil War but in the end the benefits to Northern Industries overpowered the benefits to the South's "King Cotton." We all know the results of the war.

One last comment the relationship between Whitney and Mrs. Greene it ended with the cotton gin. Mrs. Greene married her plantation manager, Phineas Miller in 1796 and

Whitney married Henrietta Frances Edwards in 1817 they had four children. For Eli Whitney we can certainly state he was truly "A Northerner With An Impact."

CIVIL WAR USAGE

TO OFFER ONE'S SWORD---A metaphor indicating one's willingness to fight for a cause.

QUICKSTEP---(1) A fast rate of march, usually dictated by the beat of martial music. This pace was about 110 steps per minute, during which soldiers covered about 85 to 90 yards. (2) Slang for diarrhea.

TO INVEST---The essential and preliminary steps necessary prior to a siege, including the control of all roads, canals, and railroads that might be used to resupply the besieged.

TO BITE THE BULLET---To undertake a repugnant or dangerous task. The term likely stems from the practice of placing a lead bullet between a patient's teeth while surgeons operated on a man.

TATTOO---A bugle call for soldiers to return to their quarters at the end of the day. It was replaced by "Taps."

DECEMBER QUIZ

Q.1 This Confederate officer, a general officer at war's end, a native of Georgia, finished third in his West Point Class of 1857, helped develop the semaphore or "wigwag" system of communicating. He was a fine officer during the war can you name him?

Q.2 Reluctant to use black soldiers but aware that they would boost the strength of Union Armies, President Lincoln signed a congressional bill authorizing their enlistment. Under the terms of enlistment a black soldier received a trifle more than half the pay given to white comrades in arms. Two black regiments protested this arrangement, but got no results. These units continued in service but refused pay until a presidential order brought them equal pay. Can you identify the units and the length of time the black soldiers had to wait for equal pay?

Q.3 On July 17, 1864 the Confederate president, Jefferson Davis effected a change in the command of the Confederate Army of Tennessee. General William Sherman commanding the Union forces professed to be "pleased at the change." After the war Sherman wrote "the Confederate Government rendered us a most valuable service." Can you identify this change in command and why Sherman was so pleased by the change.

DECEMBER MEETING

Our December meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday December 13, 2005**. Meeting time is 6:30PM at the Inn At Moselem Springs. Members are requested to make dinner reservation by our cutoff date of **Monday December 5, 2005**. **Please call 610-683-4384 for reservations and call after 5PM**. Our menu for the December meeting will be a choice of **Grilled Marinated Chicken Romano, Broiled Haddock and Grilled Boneless Pork Loin with Pineapple Sauce**. Prior to our meeting and dinner hors d'oeuvres will be served come early and enjoy. Dinner cost for our Christmas Meeting will be \$20.00. Period costume will be welcome for those who choose to wear them.

Our evening program will present the Purcell Family with vocalist Laura Murphy presenting "Echoes of the Civil War." I understand Christmas music will be included. Let's have a great turnout and a happy holiday evening.
Newsletter Editor Tony Reilly 610-921-3131

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

JANUARY 2006

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

We can begin the new year with a very positive report on our December meeting which we also like to refer to as our Christmas meeting. We had a very fine attendance of 81 members and guest. I believe by adding the 5 members of the program group we then had 86 people at this meeting. This was one of our very best attendance figures in years and was 41 members more than last December's meeting.

After a welcome by President Mike Gabriel we received a treasurer's report from Arlan Christ. Our balance as of 11-8-05 was \$3,610.48 new income was \$1,587.00, new expenses \$1,887.22 providing us with a balance of \$3,310.26 as of 12-13-05. Our preservation balance as of 11-8-05 is \$206.00.

I spoke to Pat Christ on membership and she noted we now have 111 members signed with one new additional member pending. This will close our membership efforts for the ninth campaign. If any member has someone interested in future membership speak with Pat and she will advise you accordingly.

Dave Fox provided additional information on our June 10, 2006 field trip. Following our Gettysburg tour of Culp's Hill and the East Cavalry battlefields we will bus to Hanover, Pa. and have dinner at the Hotel McAllister plus a walking tour of the area. A speaker will be provided after dinner. Dave advised the cost of the tour will be made available in the near future. Stay tuned more to come!

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Just a few trivia items for this month's table.

---Between 1861 and 1865 with more than 955,000 immigrants arriving, 764,000 settled in the Northern States and 191,000 to the Southern States.

---Of the 75,000 residents of the District of Columbia in 1860, 14,000 were black and 3,000 of them were slaves.

---Out of every one hundred Union draftees only twenty actually served.

---After the war John Bell Hood became a merchant in New Orleans, John Singleton Mosby resumed a law practice in Virginia and Braxton Bragg a Civil Engineer in Texas and Alabama.

BOOK RAFFLE/PRESERVATION

Tom Tate reports that in the spirit of the season our members were very generous with their purchase of raffle tickets. With the large turnout for our meeting and members finding Tom somewhat hidden in the alcove we raised another \$154.00 for battlefield preservation. Members also contributed some books for future raffles. Tom and the Round Table thank the members for the great support not only this past month but for all the preceding months in our important efforts toward battlefield preservation.

This month's sale of raffle tickets brings our preservation fund to \$360.00 let us all continue our good efforts in this work.

DECEMBER PROGRAM REVIEW

Our December program, "Merry Christmas America 1865," was a musical presentation by members of the Purcell Family and vocalist Laura Murphy. I believe all would agree that we had a very pleasant and enjoyable evening. Providing songs of the Civil War period and songs of our Christmas season and the opportunity to join in the singing we had a heart-warming night. Mr. Purcell and Miss. Murphy sang for us and with us. Two of the young members of the Purcell family entertained us with dancing. Hopefully with some of our usual Round Table features, a fine dinner selection and our entertaining evening we had a great night. The First Defenders extend our thanks and appreciation to the Purcell Family and to Laura Murphy for a great program and night.

Now we cannot conclude our program review without adding an additional thanks to an unexpected, but very entertaining, visit to our Round Table by the "Great Kendones," Ricardo and Katrina. Providing commentary, magic and juggling we had much to enjoy. We must add this comment that Ricardo's beautiful dress was only exceeded by Katrina's beautiful looks. We all thank the Kendones, alias Rich and Cathy Kennedy, for an "Oscar" winning performance on the stage, but it is most important for us to add this information regarding our evening performance. All the evening performers had the benefit of performing on a stage a stage that was the work of one of our fellow members, Rich Kennedy, or if you prefer "Ricardo."

The Newsletter has received a letter and a request to present the letter to the members as a thank you for hard work of Rich. This letter was written by Cathy Kennedy, "Katrina" to husband Rich Kennedy, "Ricardo" and is here presented to the membership.

"I, having lived through October, November and December with you, would like to publicly thank you for your thoughtfulness and dedication to our CWRT. While you worked tirelessly on the Christmas program, stage production and construction, you tolerated my tears, doubts and fears. I watched you put your heart and soul into this while never giving up or losing faith in me! Thank you for resisting the temptation to throw me out in the snow or off the stage. Your loving partner Katrina." Our thanks to Cathy for sharing her thoughts with us and for expressing her thanks to Rich for all his hard work in making our December meeting a grand success. I am sure all of us extend to Rich our thanks for all his efforts on behalf of the Round Table not only during our Christmas season and throughout the year. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Rich Kennedy.

DID YOU KNOW

WHY MEN FOUGHT

Why men fought is a question often asked when speaking of men at war. In the American Civil War most men wondered how they would face the "test of combat." Believing that once the test had been failed or passed, the result was not alterable. Courage, they believed, was a matter of character and if present in battle it was a constant fact. Soldiers, green or experienced, thought courage the most important virtue of a soldier. The war would go to the side that was the bravest. However, in our Civil War it was clear that men from the North and South were equally brave. They also realized as the war continued that courage could be slippery and a man who was brave in one battle might be a coward in the next. If bravery was a result of courage, but courage was not always present in a soldier in every fight, bravery was redefined to mean not fearlessness,

but "perseverance despite fear." It would be more than fair to say that this "perseverance" that kept, allowed or made men stand and fight in fact was bravery and the desire to be and act bravely when on the firing line. It would also be fair to state that soldiers in all wars and all sides display this perseverance (bravery) consistently throughout all battles in all wars.

There are other reasons why men continue to fight and endure combat. Discipline, which included drill and coercion. Drills made formations, use of weapons and maneuvers habitual. If all around a soldier seemed chaotic, soldiers would fall back on their training without thinking. Drilling also brought men together in close order that gave a sense of sharing danger and other responsibilities. Coercion helped keep soldiers in battle and focused on their objectives. In the Civil War officers more often commanded by influence than by coercion. This was due to Civil War units being led into battle by officers not just through the passing of orders. Inspirational leadership by both officers and individual soldiers contributed to keeping men in line to fight.

Comradery may well be and has been one of the strongest facts in why men fought. Soldiers would risk death rather than let down their friends and comrades and prevent themselves from being shamed in the eyes of their friends. Believe it or not but the excitement of battle often dulled the fear of death. Battlefield rage led soldiers to seek revenge upon their enemy without thinking of the perils that confronted them. Some soldiers, always a minority, actually enjoyed combat especially if it were on the winning side of a fight. To these men combat was a tonic and made them feel more alive.

While most Civil War soldiers were not violent men before or after the war, humans like most other animals have an instinct for violence. This would suggest that a good fight could be looked forward to. As humans the belief in good luck and the human inability to believe in one's own death persuaded soldiers that they would survive the hell of battle. This belief that "it won't happen to me" was often supported by the American belief in divine providence. In the Civil War, and I am sure all others, American soldiers prayed for deliverance from death for God was on their side. For those who saw the Civil War as a holy cause, an idea comfortable to many, death in battle if it came would find its reward in heaven.

No one can successfully rank all the motivations to explain why men fought. We have listed a number of these motivations in this writing. There is one other reason that may well stand above others including discipline and comradery. The motivation of "patriotism" would probably be supported by a majority of those who fight. It can be defined and defended as idealistic, but it can not be dismissed. Patriotism is not only a factor to enter the military but a factor that is taken to all battlefields. The ways the demands of combat affected each soldier may have differed from battle to battle, but the motivation of "patriotism" may well have been the most common reason why men fought. While "patriotism" is that one other reason that stands above all others I offer one additional reason that also cannot be overlooked, the desire to live. In combat the adage "kill or be killed" should be a motivation that can not be ignored. These are many of the reasons why men fought and why they "persevered despite fear."

CIVIL WAR USAGE

AMERICAN BASTILLE---A reference to Washington's Old Capitol Prison and referring to the Bastille Prison in France, which housed many political prisoners before the French Revolution.

BATTERY WAGON--A wagon to transport tools and other materials needed to repair carriages and other segments of artillery batteries.

COPPERHEAD--A northerner, usually a Democrat who was opposed to the war and favored a negotiated peace. The earliest reference appeared in the September 11, 1862 issue of the Lawrence, Kansas Republic, which noted the application of the term southern sympathizers in the state of Indiana.

FATIGUE DUTY--Manual labor not to be performed while in uniform.

ORDERLY--An aide, typically a private, assigned to perform various tasks for an officer.

JANUARY QUIZ

Q.1 This Confederate General officer holds the all-time military record, relating to time, while Superintendent at West Point. Can you identify the military record and the name of the officer?

Q.2 This Southern state's commitment to the Confederacy remained shaky despite her contribution of more soldiers than any other state save Virginia to the Confederate cause. However she also contributed more deserters than any other Confederate state. Name this state?

Q.3 On October 9 and 10 in 1862 General Robert E. Lee made two announcements that would have far reaching effects on the Army of Northern Virginia. The announcements would be historical for this Confederate Army and the Confederate nation. Identify the announcements?

JANUARY MEETING

Our January meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday January 10, 2006**. Our meeting time is 6:30PM at the Moselem Springs Inn. Members are requested to make dinner reservation by our cutoff date **Monday January 2, 2006**. **Please call 610-683-4384 for reservations and call after 5PM**. Our menu for the January meeting will be a choice of **Grilled Salmon, Baked Ham Steak and Baked Ziti W/ Meatballs**. Dinner cost for this meeting will be \$17.00.

January's program will be our annual Round Table discussion. Our topic for this year is "General Longstreet or General Jackson who made the greater contribution to the Confederate cause." This is a subject that should allow any and all members to present an opinion. The work and service to the Confederacy of both of these men has been greatly documented. We have books and articles both new and old to tell us about these men.

Come prepared to give your opinion there is no right or wrong point of view and all comments will add to the evening's discussion. Longstreet and Jackson two great officers with two great historical backgrounds. See you all in the new year!

Tony Reilly Newsletter Editor 610-921-3131

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

FEBRUARY 2006

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Our January meeting opened the new-year with a good start. We had 65 members and guest in attendance. I believe this would top attendance figures for most of our past January meetings.

President Mike Gabriel noted new members would receive certificates and name tags at the February or March meeting.

Dave Fox reviewed the schedule for our June 10, 2006 field trip and should have pricing information available shortly.

Arlan Christ gave the treasurer's report stating a balance of \$3,310.26 as of 12-13-2005, new income \$1,694.00, new expenses \$2,404.23 providing us with a balance of \$2,600.03. Our preservation balance of 1-10-06 is \$360.00. Ticket sales in January will be reported in Tom Tate's report in this newsletter.

Mike Gabriel and I made a suggestion to members regarding any one not receiving a Newsletter prior to a meeting. If you do not receive your newsletter by Saturday of the weekend prior to our Monday cutoff date for dinner reservations please call me (Tony) at 610-921-3131. I will provide you with the menu options and then send a newsletter to you. Receiving the menu will of course allow you to call in your dinner reservation by our Monday cutoff date. The cutoff date is always the first Monday of the month and our meetings the second Tuesday of every month. We also continue to ask all to cooperate in calling by the cutoff date. If any member has a question on something in the Newsletter, again you are welcome to call the above number and I will try to help with an answer. One exception, no answer to any of the quiz questions before meeting time.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Jack Gurney provided a U.S. Cavalry leather carrying case used during the Civil War to carry surgical sets located in a wood case. Jack noted cases like the one displayed are very rare. As always our thanks to Jack.

At our January meeting we had a special program presented by four students from Kutztown High School. Member Barry Adams was responsible in providing, along with the students, the setting up of this program. The program was a ten-minute video created and narrated by the students. This project was a student exercise for National History Day involving competition at the local, state and national levels. The four young gentlemen were the "No. 1" winner in the Pennsylvania state competition. The boys program was titled "Reveille to Taps" a view of the importance of the bugle and bugler in the Civil War era. The story centered on the various bugle calls and their importance as a communication tool in both garrison and battlefield situations. The story also identified the demanding work and time of a bugler's daily schedule. Our four young gentlemen were Philip Weiser, Eric Marsteller, Austin Weidner and Jeremy Angstadt.

Our Round Table extends our thanks to each young man and to member Barry Adams for their informative presentation.

Now stay tuned we have more to come, next month another young man will attend our meeting and provide a "static display" regarding the 88th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry of Baxter's Brigade, Army of the Potomac and Iversons Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia on Oak Hill on July 1, 1863 at Gettysburg. No additional information will be presented here you have to show up at the meeting to gain the whole story. Don't miss it!

Bits of trivia from Our History Table.

- The population of the Confederate states dropped by 500,000 during the war years.
- Four percent of the total population of the South and twenty-five percent of all white men of military age in the South were killed during the war.
- In 1857 the Supreme Court, in Dred Scott v. Sanford, ruled against citizenship for blacks.
- In 1861 the Kentucky State Legislature adopted a resolution of neutrality.

BOOK RAFFLE / PRESERVATION

While our January attendance gave us a fine start in the new-year Tom Tate's book raffle report also provides good news for the Round Table. Tom noted members bought and donated a total dollar amount of \$172.00 that we can add to our preservation fund. Members also donated a number of books to be raffled off over coming months. Donated books keeps our cost down in not having to purchase new books and thus allows all dollars collected to be directed to our preservation program.

Our recent contribution of \$500.00 for the western battlefield of Champions Hill was acknowledged by a thank you letter from Civil War Preservation Trust this letter was read to the members at our January meeting. This gift for Champions Hill also satisfies a commitment the Round Table had to contribute to a western battlefield preservation effort.

Tom acknowledges the great support of the membership of our Round Table and states we have preservation money on hand and can strike when the iron is hot on some vital preservation sites in need of help.

Petitions and flyers were on hand at our January meeting to lobby against the proposed gambling casino proposed near Gettysburg. While different opinions may be held it appeared most attending members at the meeting signed the petitions in opposition to a casino.

While this next item does not apply to our book raffle or to preservation I felt it would be an appropriate place to note a fine compliment to our Tom Tate. Tom recently had a book published under the title "From Under Iron Eyelids: The Biography of James Henry Burton, Armorer to Three Nations." Recently the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond nominated Tom's book to be a candidate for "The Jefferson Davis Award 2006" and also "The Founders Award" for 2007. A great compliment to Tom I know we all wish him the best of luck, but win or not with his book Tom is a winner with all of us. Hats off to a good guy!

JANUARY PROGRAM REVIEW

As we have done in the past our January meeting has been our annual Round Table discussion on a selected topic. This year our topic for discussion was "General Longstreet or General Jackson who made the greater contribution to the Confederate cause." Our

topic for discussion must have been popular for we had many contributors and comments on the subject. I believe it would be fair for me to state there were no one sided opinions in favor of either of these two great general officers. Most of the comments by members gave credit to the contributions made by both men to the Confederate course. I do not believe there were any degrading statements made against either of these men.

We all should be pleased and impressed by the knowledge our members showed and presented in giving their views of Longstreet and Jackson. I personally though our members where on target in presenting opinions as the views expressed could be the equal of those found in many publication by noted historians. Based on what we heard we may state that while both Longstreet and Jackson had some less than great moments in their positions of Corps commanders both men made up for these infrequent down times with a great consistency of quality leadership and success in their assignments. General Lee had the good fortune of having both men under his command and they had much to do with the success of the Army of Northern Virginia, especially early in the war. Jackson's mortal wounding at Chancellorsville and Longstreet's wounding in the Wilderness certainly took from Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia two of the most potent weapons they had.

If there is to be a winner selected by members regarding these two great generals it probably exists in the personnel views and opinions of each of us. I would conclude by saying whatever a member's view of choice may be there can be no loser regarding General Longstreet and General Jackson two great officers whose contributions to the Confederate cause would only be over shadowed by Robert E. Lee. I am also sure the Army of the Potomac would also agree.

The Round Table thanks all members for participating in our annual Round Table discussion it was an interesting and enlightening evening. It would be fair to say that "we did good."

DID YOU KNOW

STRATEGY

Two of the most common words we encounter in our study of the American Civil War are strategy and tactics. This month we will address the science of strategy and will follow next month with tactics. Strategy is the science of planning and directing large-scale military operations specifically of maneuvering forces into the most advantageous position prior to actual engagement with the enemy. In this military art, troops are maneuvered outside the battlefield to achieve success in a large geographic area. That geographic expanse can be a "front" (in the Civil War, part or all of one state) or a "theater" (several contiguous states possessing geographical, geopolitical, or military unity). When the expanse encompasses an entire country, the corresponding waging of war on the largest scale to secure national objectives is called "grand strategy."

"Offensive strategy" carries war to the enemy, either directly by challenging his strength or indirectly by penetrating his weakness. "Defensive strategy" protects against enemy strategic offensives. And "defensive-offensive strategy" (which Confederates often practiced) uses offensive maneuvers for defensive strategic results (e.g. General Robert E. Lee and Major General Thomas Jackson took the offensive May-June 1862 to defend Richmond, Virginia).

Strategic objectives include defeating, destroying, or forcing enemy armies to retreat; seizing enemy strategic sites (supply lines, depots, arsenals, communicating centers, and

industry) crucial to his military effort; capturing the enemy capital; disrupting his economy; and demoralizing his will to wage war. While seeking such goals, the strategist must correspondingly protect his own army, strategic sites, capital, economy, and populace. He must strike proper balance between securing his rear and campaigning in his front. Supply lines and homelands must be guarded; especially in war between 2 republics, which the Civil War really was, the compelling necessity of protecting the political base cannot be ignored. Yet if too many troops are left in the rear, too few remain to attack or even defend against enemy armies at the front.

Of these objectives, European experience from which Civil War strategic doctrine derived, emphasized 3 strategies: destroying the enemy's army in one great battle, seizing strategic sites, and capturing the enemy's capital. In the Civil War, attacking and defending Richmond and Washington consumed much effort, but their actual strategic importance, though great, was more symbolic than substantial, since neither was its country's nerve center, as European capitals happen to be. Also deceptive were quests for victory through seizing strategic sites and cutting "lines of communication" (supply lines); only a few Civil War campaigns were decided or even significantly affected by such captures. Jackson's successful attack against the Federal supply depot at Manassas prior to the Second Battle of Bull Run comes to mind. Most impossible of all were hopes of annihilating the enemy's army in one great Napoleonic battle. In our Civil War this was truly impossible.

Because of this Civil War strategists used a series of battles each of them indecisive but cumulatively effective to cripple the enemy, drive him back, and overrun or protect territory. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign and his March to the Sea would be an example of this strategy of a series of battles providing a cumulative effect. Other strategies sought first to maneuver so as to gain advantage of ground or numbers and only then to give battle under such favorable conditions. Whatever the overall numbers in a theater of operations, strategy strove to assure numerical superiority on the battlefield; this principal was called "concentrating masses against fractions." Both the Union and the Confederacy practiced it, but it was especially important to the overall weaker South, as when Jackson performed it so effectively in the Shenandoah Valley.

An important factor in the war, used by each side, and especially by the Confederates was the use of "interior lines" to move forces from quiet fronts to threatened fronts more quickly than the enemy could move around the military border. Unfortunately Southern supply lines were so primitive and Federal supply lines were so good that, despite longer distance, Northerners often moved in shorter times because of this superiority. Even more effective against Confederate reliance on interior lines was General Grant's grand strategy of concentrating the armed might of the Union for simultaneous advances to tie down and defeat Confederate troops on all major fronts.

As the war continued, Civil War strategist, especially Union commanders such as Sherman and Sheridan reluctantly but increasingly came to make the enemies economy and populace suffer as these two targets regained legitimacy. Federal strategy eventually crippled Southern capability and will to wage war though, to be effective, such strategy could only compliment Northern success in maneuver and battle.

While strategic cavalry raids played some role in crippling the supply lines on both sides these raids rarely had much military effect before collapse of the Southern cause became imminent in 1865. Instead, the principal unit of strategic maneuver was the

infantry corps, and the basic element of strategic control was the army. The control of military strategy generally resided at a military headquarters such as Army, Corps or Division levels or as was most often the case with a General-in-Chief who passed orders down through the chain of command.

Whatever the elements and whatever the means, the fundamental goal of strategy remains the same: the overall use of force to accomplish broad military and political objectives. This has been a brief but reasonable look at the science of strategy it is one of the key elements in the prosecution of war and battle I hope it will provide an improved understanding and definition of the science of strategy in war. Next month "Tactics."

CIVIL WAR USAGE

INFANTRY---Soldiers trained, armed and equipped to fight on foot. The word is derived from the European reference to foot soldiers who had in their youth formerly been servants and followers of Knights.

GUN---Although used to refer to revolvers, muskets and rifles, this term properly designated a smoothbore or rifled cannon.

TO FLANK---To gain a position on either side of an opponent's line that allows one to enfilade his ranks. Commanders in blue and gray placed the highest priority on flanking one another at every opportunity.

THE WHITE WEAPON---An allusion to Sabers.

TO FEEL---To probe an enemy force or position to discover its strength.

FEBRUARY QUIZ

Q.1 On August 30, 1862 men of Colonel Gouverneur Warren's Fifth New York Regiment tried to stem an attack by forces under the command of General James Longstreet. In a ten-minute period Warren's men experienced a fact no other infantry regiment experienced in that time frame during the course of the war. Can you identify the fact Warren's regiment experienced?

Q.2 This Confederate officer born in upstate New York rendered five decades of distinguished military service. In June 1861 he was confirmed at the rank of senior general in the Confederate service. Can you name this Confederate officer?

Q.3 The Battle of Gettysburg ended on July 3, 1863 as we all know. When did the outcome of this battle officially reach Richmond, Virginia?

FEBRUARY MEETING

Our February meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday February 14, 2006**. Our meeting time is 6:30PM at Moselem Springs Inn. Members are requested to make dinner reservations by our cutoff date **Monday February 6, 2006**. Please call **610-683-4384** for reservations and call after 5PM. The menu for the February meeting will be a choice of **Broiled Haddock, Grilled Chicken Brest W/Mushrooms and Yankee Pot Roast**. Dinner cost for the meeting will be \$17.00.

February's program will be presented by fellow member Gerry Zieber, his topic "An Overview of James Buchanan." Buchanan the fifteenth President of the United States served from 1857 to 1861 he was the only president from Pennsylvania. Come and join fellow members for what should be an interesting and fine evening.

**The Life of James Buchanan
Handout to the First Defenders Civil War Round Table
Prepared by Gerry Zeiber
February 14, 2006**

Early Life

James Buchanan, the father of our fifteenth president, emigrated from Ireland in 1783. Within several years he became employed at, and soon purchased, a backwoods trading post with warehouse facilities for freight hauled by wagons traveling east and west, at Cove Gap, in Franklin County, near the town of Mercersburg. He married Elizabeth Speer in 1788. Their first child, Mary, was born in 1789. On April 23, 1791, Elizabeth presented her husband with a son, named for his father. As was common in that era, little Mary died in that same year. Over the following years James would become the eldest brother to five more sisters and to three brothers (Klein 4).

Of the lasting influences of life around Mercersburg on the future president, James Buchanan's sympathies were always rural. Manufacturers and their problems he never fully understood, he was at heart, an agrarian (5).

Young James attended the Old Stone Academy at Mercersburg where he studied Greek and Latin (5). When James was sixteen, Dr. John King, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Mercersburg, and a trustee of Dickinson College in Carlisle, urged the elder Buchanan to send his son to college. James's father understood the advantages of education to secure the future of the family. James enrolled in the junior year at Dickinson in 1807, and commenced the study of Latin, Greek, mathematics, geography, history, literature, and philosophy (8-10). At Dickinson he learned respect for the law, respect for property, and a respectful attitude toward religion, which he considered a matter of individual belief rather than formal creed (12). He graduated in September 1809.

In James's later life, he came to emulate his former Dickinson teacher, Dr. Robert Davidson, being "vain, formal, solemn, and precise; yet kindly and gentle, always eager to settle disputes without force and solve problems by friendly and pleasant meeting of minds. The Blessed Peacemaker" (12).

Upon graduation, James's father urged him to begin the study of law with James Hopkins of Lancaster, then the capital of Pennsylvania, and the largest inland town in the United States. In December 1809, James began his preceptorship with Hopkins, completing it in 1812. As the state capital had been moved to Harrisburg in October 1812, James became concerned that the number of residual lawyers still practicing in Lancaster might provide stiff professional competition there. In the summer of 1812, he bought a horse and traveled to Kentucky seeking opportunities to his profession. But he found that lawyers there were his equals in skills and the frontier area lacked the wealth to command legal fees comparable to those in Lancaster. He decided to return to Lancaster, which he did in time to be admitted to the Bar on November 17, 1812. He started his practice on February 20, 1813, in an office on East King Street, and began his quest for financial security (15, 16).

Just like his father, James Buchanan believed in the politics of the Federalist Party, and thus began his political life. By 1814, he was serving as president of the Washington

Association, a young Federalist organization. The Federalist Party, though dominant in Lancaster politics, was a minority party statewide and growing weaker. They were looking for a popular, forceful young man. On August 24, 1814, Lancaster Federalists nominated James for state assembly (17).

The War of 1812

But at the very moment he committed himself to politics, his first duty bore down swiftly and unexpectedly on him. As the news of the British burning of Washington reached Lancaster, James realized that if he wanted to garner votes, he would have to go to war. At a general mobilization in Lancaster on August 24, 1814, Buchanan was among the first to register as a volunteer (17).

Two days later, a company of young men from Lancaster, led by Henry Shippen, Esq., though without any formal orders, mounted their horses, armed with swords and pistols, and proceeded to Baltimore to aid in its defense. "Shippen's Company, composed of about two dozen of the "most respectable young gentlemen of Lancaster," had no official status as part of either the militia or the regular army; it was a group of private volunteers. After arriving at Baltimore, the "Lancaster County Dragoons", as they called themselves, offered their services to Major Charles Sterret Ridgely of the Third Cavalry Regiment. Major Ridgely called for ten volunteers to go on a secret mission. Buchanan joined this squad and all proceeded about four miles beyond the city, full of excitement in the belief that they were on a dangerous mission—until they opened their sealed orders at the designated point" (18).

They were to go to Ellicott's Mills and seize about sixty good horses from the residents of the vicinity, 'always preferring to take them from Quakers.' It was an assignment not particularly gratifying to young gentlemen from Lancaster, all of whom had their own mounts, and had never before seriously considered horse-stealing. They encountered no Redcoats, but by the time they had accomplished their mission, becoming drenched in an overnight rain, the Marylanders of the region had become nearly as serious an enemy as the British. Nevertheless, they seized the horses and paraded them down Market Street in Baltimore past Gadsby's Hotel where they were met by the jeers and guffaws of the rest of the Lancaster volunteers. A few days later, the British withdrew from the city and Major Ridgely discharged Captain Shippen's Dragoons, and they returned to Lancaster (17, 18).

Early Political Thought

In November 1814, Buchanan was elected to the state assembly, running first on the ticket in Lancaster Borough, and third of a field of sixteen from the entire county. During his tenure in that legislature, he began to develop his political beliefs. He found the impetuous, unstable, mob-produced actions of the radical Democrat-Republicans actions revolting and sometimes frightening. Yet control of business and politics by a closed corporation of the wealthy he could not accept as just (23).

He had respect for the will of the majority, but he had an equal respect for individual rights in property. He believed that the greatest glory of the American Constitution was that it embodied this dual concept; that it drew a careful balance between the demands of persons and of property. But no existing political party accepted both of these doctrines. With his ideas, Buchanan was not sure in which party he belonged (23).

A Rising Star

Buchanan's associations in Lancaster broadened with his growing success in his law practice and he moved into the prominent society of Lancaster. By 1816, he had formed a loose association with Lancaster attorney Molton C. Rogers, son of the Governor of Delaware. Rogers moved into Buchanan's law office on East King Street. In November, Buchanan petitioned the Masonic lodge, sponsored by Rogers and by John Reynolds (27), who was the father of a man we know about from other studies.

Masonic History

From the *History of Lodge No. 43, F. & A. M.*, of Lancaster, we learn of the Masonic history of our fifteenth President. He was made a Mason in Lodge No. 43 on December 11, 1816. He was entered by Worshipful Master Brother John Reynolds, and was passed and raised by Worshipful Master Brother George H. Whitaker on January 24, 1817. He was elected Junior Warden, December 13, 1820, and Worshipful Master December 23, 1822. At the expiration of his term of office, he was appointed the first District Deputy Grand Master of this district (Welchans, 224)." The district included "...the counties of Lancaster, Lebanon, and York under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (Masonic 7)."

"On May 20, 1826 Buchanan was exalted to the Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason by chapter No. 43 of Lancaster. He is thought to have later served as an officer in this chapter (7)."

The Ann Coleman Affair

Sometime in 1818, Buchanan's law partner and Masonic Brother, Molton Rogers began courting Eliza Jacobs, daughter of Cyrus Jacobs, who had amassed great wealth as an ironmaster. Eliza's brother was studying law under James Buchanan at that time. Before long, Rogers suggested that Buchanan should join him some evening as an escort for Eliza's cousin, Ann Caroline Coleman. James was delighted with this suggestion as Ann was the belle of Lancaster and the daughter of one of the richest men in America (Klein 28).

Her father, Robert Coleman, had emigrated from Ireland in 1764, worked as a laborer and a clerk for ironmaster James Old of Reading, who later became owner of the Hopewell Furnace, and had married Old's daughter. By 1800 Coleman had come into possession of half a dozen fine iron properties, and was ranked as one of the nation's first millionaires (28).

Though it is probable that James and Ann knew each other from Lancaster society gatherings, there is no indication that they saw much of each other until this point in time. Now they began a serious courtship, and things moved rapidly. They became engaged in the summer of 1819, although Ann's mother did not approve of her daughter's choice, and her father had his doubts (29).

The duties of Buchanan's profession--involvement in lawsuits, land exchanges, travel to court in Philadelphia, as well as local political meetings dealing with opposition to the Missouri Compromise precluded much time for Ann during October and November. Since the engagement had become the object of scrutiny of Lancaster society, Buchanan's

absence from her gave rise to gossip that he was not in love with Ann, but with the Coleman fortune. Sometime in November, Ann began to worry about this gossip, and wrote to Buchanan, expressing her belief that he did not treat her with affection, and that the rumors were true. Hurt and frustrated, Buchanan answered Ann's note politely but in a tone of injured innocence and made no apology or explanation (30).

Buchanan had to go out of town on business and upon his return he dropped in to see Mrs. William Jenkins, with whose husband, he was a close friend. With her was staying her sister, Miss Grace Hubley. From this innocent call the trouble arose. Ann learned of the visit and became indignant that Buchanan had visited anyone before coming to her. On the spur of the moment she wrote Buchanan a note releasing him from the engagement. Buchanan was not sure how to ask her to reconsider (31).

For several days, Ann was so distressed that her mother persuaded her to travel to Philadelphia on December 4 to visit Ann's sister, Margaret, hoping that a change of scene would improve her mental state. After Ann's departure, Buchanan immersed himself in business. On December 9, a special messenger from Philadelphia brought the news that Ann had died. It was reported that she had lapsed into attacks of hysteria and succumbed during convulsions (32).

Ann's father returned an anguished letter from Buchanan, unopened. Ann was buried on December 12, 1819. Rumors of suicide began to circulate. Buchanan traveled to Mercersburg to spend time with his family, and returned to his work in January 1820. He was determined to prove himself to rise above the gossip in Lancaster (33). Although James Buchanan would go on to have several romances during the remainder of his life, he would never marry. Ann's death may well have changed the course of American History, as Buchanan plunged himself into his law practice, and into politics.

In 1820, the Federalists of Dauphin, Lebanon, and Lancaster Counties settled on Buchanan, along with John Phillips of Dauphin County, for the District's U.S. Congressional positions. They were elected by a comfortable margin and traveled to Washington as the Seventeenth Congress convened in December 1821. He was appointed to the Committee on Agriculture and gave his first speech ten days after his arrival (35). Thus, James Buchanan began his service in the national government.

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THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

APRIL 2006

This month's newsletter will again be abbreviated due to circumstances beyond our control. We hope to return to our regular format for the May issue or for next season. Thank you for your understanding.

Mike Gabriel

APRIL MEETING

Our April meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 11**, at 6:30 PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Members are requested to make dinner reservation by our cutoff date of **MONDAY, APRIL 3**. **Please call (610) 683-4385 for reservations and call AFTER 5:00 PM**. The April menu includes the following choices: **Grilled Chicken Breast, Baked Homestyle Meatloaf, and Grilled Salmon**. Please remember that our new dinner price is &17.00.

Our April speaker is **Jane Peters-Estes**, who will present "**Women's Lifestyles of the 1860's**." Recommended by Dr. Andy Waskie, a former First Defender speaker, Jane will appear in costume as she describes what life was like for a housewife in 1862, both North and South. The program will address various topics from society matrons to female spies. Along with the "typical lifestyle," Jean will also discuss career choices, health problems, and yes, some fashion. Look for her small display of ordinary household items from this fascinating Victorian era that she will include with the program. Come join us for what will certainly be an enjoyable and enlightening program.

GETTYSBURG FIELD TRIP

We are continuing to accept reservations for the June 10, 2006 field trip to Gettysburg. We will take approximately 50 people, first come-first serve. If you want to attend, please return the registration material that was in the March newsletter, as soon as possible. Registration forms will also be available at the April meeting.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

MAY 2006

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Hello to all, it's nice to be back. Let me start by thanking President Mike Gabriel for stepping in with the Newsletter during my absence. My wife's health was the issue and thank God she is doing much better.

Our April attendance was 61 members and guest. Mike Gabriel called on Dave Fox for a trip update. Dave reported some 30 members signed to date for the trip. Dave also recommended the trip be opened to non-members and we should be able to accommodate a total of 50 people if necessary. If you have any additions please contact Dave as soon as possible by calling 610-582-9245 or mail in your request to Dave Fox, 577 Cedar Hill Road, Birdsboro, Pa. 19508.

Mike Gabriel noted that our May meeting will be election night for Round Table officers. The present slate of officers have agreed to serve again, however, any member can indicate an interest to serve on the board or recommend a fellow member for an office position. If you have an interest in serving in one of the offices please step forward and place your name on the ballot we are always looking for new people to serve. At this May meeting any comments or suggestions can also be brought up for discussion that may benefit the Round Table. If you have an idea or suggestion please present it at the May meeting members views are always welcomed.

Tom Tate was asked to comment on any preservation news. I have placed Tom's information and new raffle news in the Preservation section of this newsletter.

A question from a member was asked if there was any additional information on the Casino issue at Gettysburg. The response suggested that the community in the future Casino area is in favor of the Casino, a council vote of 7 to 3 in favor of the Casino was an interesting point for all of us. It appears the Gettysburg area will receive a considerable amount of money if the Casino is built in the area.

Arlan Christ provided the following treasurer's report. Present balance as of 3-14-06, \$2,501.72, new income \$2,097.00, new expenses \$1,137.88 providing a new balance of \$3,460.84. Arlan stated the new balance includes money collected for the June field trip and includes preservation funds of \$827.00. Tom Tate's preservation report will update this preservation fund balance.

Following is a list of new members they were to be posted in the March Newsletter but we had to postpone for reasons previously noted. The Round Table welcomes the new, and now somewhat veteran members. Anthony J. Reilly, Gerald D. Plucker, Christopher M. Hannum, Bruce T. Rader, Barbara Schafer, Ron Roth, Helmut S. Erhard, James Struble, Robert A. Troxel, Ann Miller, David Lightcap, Gregory Golden, Paul Herb and Jonathan DelCollo. Welcome all and if I missed anyone please let me know and we'll post you in the next Newsletter.

One last business item Moselem Springs has again ask us to request members attending a meeting to please place your dinner card at your seat location as soon as you enter the dinning area. This will help them identify the correct meal going to the proper seat location. Please cooperate with this request, thank you all.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Jack Gurney provided a very interesting weapon of war for our review. This weapon an 1847 Colt, 6 shot, Walker Dragoon Revolver was a 44 Cal. Cap and Ball with an actual 454 Ball. This piece had a 9-inch barrel and weighted 4 pounds and 9 ounces. Jack noted this was a cavalry weapon and usually two of the revolvers were carried in two leather holders with a strap over the horse in front of the saddle one on each side. If you had the opportunity to lift this weapon at the meeting you found a very heavy revolver and one could wonder if the weapon had any degree of accuracy except for very close fighting. The revolver was named for Texan Captain Sam Walker who suggested many changes in weaponry to the Colt Company. Jack also noted some 11,000 of these revolvers were produced. The weapon on display was not one of the original 11,000. Jack stated an original Walker Dragoon Revolver would be worth about \$50,000 today. Wow, and thank you Jack for the display.

Trivia for Our History Table:

- The first title of the song "Dixie" was "I Wish I Was In Dixie's Land." Thankfully, it was shortened.
- Confederate General John Daniel Imboden had five wives. It was said he was a busy guy but fortunately he had them one at a time.
- Foreign writers described the American Civil War as "The Confederate War."
- In the South during the war the City of Richmond had the worst problem with prostitution. This was due to its size, center of government and focus on large military activities.
- The most dangerous duty in an infantry regiment was believed to be "picket duty" since pickets were generally the first to come under fire by the enemy.

PRESERVATION/BOOK RAFFLE

Tom Tate reports members purchased another \$132.00 worth of raffle tickets at the April meeting. To bring you up to date on February and March ticket sales, this information not noted in our abbreviated Newsletter for those two months, February sales were \$160.00 and March sales were \$135.00. This I believe gives us a Preservation Fund balance of \$959.00. Tom states with a good closing month in May we will again top \$1,000.00 in available funds for preservation considerations.

As Tom commented at our April meeting the Round Table needs to consider which organization will be the beneficiary(s) of this years preservation gift(s). We will address this issue at the May meeting. If you have a recommendation present it at the meeting and provide your supporting reasons. As our Preservation Chairman Tom has advised the Newsletter he will recommend a gift to the Richmond Battlefield Association for the following reasons:

1. A gift given to the RBA will assist them in their efforts to purchase some 40 acres of ground at the site of the Battle of Glendale fought on June 30, 1862 during the Seven Days Battles. All money given will go directly to the purchase of this land. This land was the location where the Pennsylvania Reserves under General George A. McCall fought a vicious rearguard action to hold ground to allow the

- Army of the Potomac to reach Malvern Hill. General George Meade was wounded in this fight at this location and General McCall was captured.
2. Glendale is one of the ten most threatened sites listed by CWPT.
 3. RBA was instrumental in convincing the landowner to consider selling the land to preservationist. RBA needs to raise some \$72,000 towards the purchase. CWPT is also involved in working to purchase this land.
 4. Tom points out a personal reason to make this gift. It is ground where many Pennsylvania soldiers fought and died and to maintain this land as a national landmark and memorial to them and others is most fitting.
- Please come prepared to discuss this important issue at the May meeting.

APRIL PROGRAM REVIEW

Our evening program was a presentation by Jane Peters Estes her topic "Women's Lifestyles of the 1860's." Our speaker has been an avid student of history for more than 25 years and our evening program was one of nine programs our speaker presents to a variety of audiences. This presentation, we could say, suggested the American Civil War was as much a woman's war as it was a man's. She drew attention to women's active participation and their unprecedented sacrifices during the course of the war. She spoke of how the Civil War forced women to take on new and unaccustomed roles in support of their respective nations and families. In addressing these many new roles and obligations, women made the Civil War their war.

Women's interest in our great sectional crisis did not begin with the start of the war but began before the outbreak of hostilities. In the South, many white women pushed their husbands toward secession by appealing to their men's sense of honor to family and country and encouraged men to echo their political sentiments in favor of secession. Northern women also voiced political opinions on secession. In one of her most interesting comments our speaker noted the great influence women had on enlistments both North and South. In this way white women made themselves essential to the war effort by encouraging men to enlist. They appealed to the manhood and honor of men and urged them to fill the ranks of their respective militaries. Men who refused or lagged behind often found themselves snubbed by the ladies. Emma Edmonds, a Union spy, noted that Southern women were "the best recruiting officers," refusing to tolerate, or admit to their society any young man who refused to enlist. In the North women proclaimed, "I wouldn't look at a nonresistant man" to secession.

By accepting the war "as what has to be done" white women revealed a personal confidence in their own abilities. They understood that sending their men to war and battle meant that they would have to take on many new responsibilities at home. With the men gone women had to manage their homes, farms, stores, businesses and plantations. The actions of women on the home front proved vital to the Union and the Confederate war efforts. Women began to work for aid societies, in factories and farms. They became the major suppliers of food, uniforms and other goods. Many women in the South joined their slaves in the fields.

Our speaker identified numerous facts regarding women in the 1860's. Women then, as always, found fashion to be important. She stated the so-called 17-inch waist was a myth, the average women's waist was 23 inches. The most common role for women was wife and mother with the average Northern woman married at age 19 and Southern at age 13. Life expectancy for women was 43 years, for men 41 years. Manners and morals

were very important and 90% of all women could read and write. A favorite pastime for women was dancing and singing and women kept themselves busy as much as possible with work in the home. Most women lived in a house and letter writing was the main method of communicating with a near or far relative or friend. Our speaker indicated there were some strange views for women to keep in mind during this period. Such as, bathing could be bad for you, dancing the waltz was scandalous and education could hurt a women's health. I suspect some men, I'm sorry to say, may have had something to do with that "crap." There were certain acceptable dress codes for women and since men controlled most money matters women at times had to accept many financial decisions as final without any input. Women who worked were generally paid at ¼ the wage of men for a similar job.

It is probable the war changed many or most of these strange facts since women had to accept, which they did, many jobs and responsibilities that were foreign to them. One of the great changes for women was taking on the traditional male occupation of a nurse. Approximately 20,000 women served as Union nurses during the war. Women, North and South, became very active in relief work. Women worked as spies during the war and were very successful. Since they were trusted and never searched they could often pass through lines, both friend and enemy. Some 400 women crossed the boundaries of womanhood and enlisted as soldiers on both sides. Teaching was another occupation that women entered when men left to fight. The least virtuous occupation women entered in great numbers due to the war was prostitution. Why, well they earned a lot more money and had some control of their own lives, so to speak.

If time and space permitted many of the items and facts noted in this review could receive much more attention but that is not the case. Our speaker did a very good job of identifying the roles of women, North and South, in the 1860's and the Civil War. I close this review with this comment: Margaret Mitchell's narrator in "Gone With The Wind" asserted that war "is men's business, not ladies." Well I submit one of the great reasons men fight wars is for their ladies. The American Civil War proved and all our nations other wars proved that war is everyone's business.

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table extends our thanks to Jane Peters Estes for a fine presentation and hopefully we will have the opportunity to have her back at a future meeting.

DID YOU KNOW

TACTICS

In our February Newsletter we address the military science of Strategy and planned to address Tactics in March. We missed March and April for reasons noted, but we return this month and will address the military science of Tactics.

Tactics is the science of arranging and maneuvering military and naval forces in action or before the enemy, with reference to short-range objectives and to achieve victory in combat. Offensive tactics seek success through attacking; defensive tactics aim at defeating enemy attacks. In Civil War tactics, the principal combat arm was infantry. Its most common deployment was a long "line of battle," two ranks deep. More massed was the "column," varying from 1 to 10 or more companies wide and from 8 to 20 or more ranks deep. Less compact than column or line was "open-order" deployment: a strung-out, irregular single line.

Battle lines delivered the most firepower defensively and offensively. Offensive firepower alone would not ensure success. Attackers had to charge, and massed columns, with their greater depth, were often preferable to battle lines for making frontal assaults. Better yet were flank attacks, to "roll up" thin battle lines lengthwise. Offensive tacticians sought opportunity for such effective flank attacks; defensive tacticians countered by "refusing" these flanks on impassable barriers. Refusing in this sense is to pull back or hold your own flank or flanks to face the enemy attempting to assault your flanks. In either posture, tacticians attempted to coordinate all their troops to deliver maximum force and firepower and to avoid being beaten "in detail" (piecemeal). Throughout, they relied on open-order deployment to cover their front and flanks with skirmishers that developed the enemy position and screened their own troops.

Open-order, moreover, was best suited for moving through the wooded countryside of America. That wooded terrain, so different from Europe's open fields, for which tactical doctrine was aimed, also affected tactical control. Army commanders, even Corps commanders, could not control large, far-flung forces. Instead, army commanders concentrated on strategy. And Corps commanders handled "grand tactics": the medium for translating theater strategy into battlefield tactics, the art of maneuvering large forces just outside the battlefield and bringing them onto that field. Once on the field, Corps commanders provided overall tactical direction, but their largest practical units of tactical maneuver were divisions. More often, brigades, even regiments, formed those maneuver elements. Essentially, brigades did the fighting in the Civil War.

Besides affecting organization, difficult terrain helped relegate cavalry and artillery to lesser tactical roles. More influential in lessening the successes of these two combat arms was the widespread introduction and use of long-range rifled shoulder arms. Prior to the Civil War most infantry fired smoothbore muskets, cavalry and artillery had been key attacking arms. Attempting to continue such tactics in the Civil War proved disastrous, as rifle power soon drove horsemen virtually off the battlefield and relegated artillery to defensive support. Rifle power also devastated offensive infantry assaults, but senior commanders, quick to understand its impact on cannon and cavalry did not grasp its effect on infantry. By 1864 infantry did erect field fortifications to strengthen its defensive battlefield tactics to protect itself from enemy rifle power, but when attacking, whether against battle lines or fortified enemy positions, infantry continued to suffer heavy casualties by clinging to outdated tactical formations. While infantry was slow to learn and change its offensive and defensive tactics, other arms swiftly found new tactical roles. The new mission of artillery was to bolster the defense, by reassigning artillery units to brigades, divisions and corps and introducing long-range shells and close-in canister, artillery became crucial in repulsing enemy attacks. Offensively, artillery assaults with their infantry had limited results and caused heavy casualties to artillery units. Eventually artillery depended entirely on direct fire against visible targets.

Cavalry, in the meantime, served most usefully in scouting for tactical intelligence and in screening such intelligence from their enemy cavalry. Cavalry mobility allowed it to seize key locations and when required it could dismount and fight on foot. Late in the war cavalry armed with breech-loading weapons and repeating weapons fought well even against infantry. In truth, rarely did mounted cavalry battle with saber and pistol.

In the American Civil War the size of armies, commitment to their respective causes by citizen soldiers, the difficult American terrain, and the impact of fortifications and

technology all militated against the probability of a Napoleonic triumph, the belief in one grand battle that would destroy the enemy army and capture his capital and country. Most Civil War commanders trained and raised in the aura of Napoleon sought such a victory, but few came close to achieving it. Warfare had so change since the Napoleonic era victory in the Civil War could only be achieved through Strategy, not in one battle, but in a series of successful battles and the tactics employed to bring about success in those battles. The strategy and tactics used were the crucial elements in deciding the outcome of the American Civil War. Whatever elements and whatever the means employed, the fundamental goals of both Strategy and Tactics remained the same through time: the overall use of force to accomplish broad military and political objectives. Simply put, "to win." Hope you all enjoyed our brief look and review of both Strategy and Tactics.

CIVIL WAR USAGE

DOUBLE ENVELOPMENT---A complex maneuver during which a line is flanked on both sides.

FOG OF WAR---The gray haze generated by powder smoke. Often the acrid smoke became so dense that the effective vision of fighting men was limited to a few feet.

TO MASS---To concentrate a body of troops, sometimes so densely that standard formations could not be maintained.

PARAPET---A defensive work, usually of stout masonry, erected above the rampart of a fortress to protect gunners and their pieces. In the field, logs were used to form a parapet. Special parapet bayonets could be attached to the logs to prevent attempts to scale the parapet.

RAMPART---A protective wall on which the parapet of a fort was raised. A general term for a defensive work, also an earthen embankment that surrounded a fortification.

MAY QUIZ

Q.1 These four Union officers, Halleck, Grant, Sherman and Sheridan had a number of military factors in common. They were all graduates of West Point, all reached the rank of a general officer and all commanded troops in the field. Eventually each man, at different times, all served in a most important assignment. Can you identify the important assignment common to each of these officers?

Q.2 President Lincoln exasperated by General George McClellan's continued comments and requests during the Peninsula Campaign and the Seven Days Battles made these two statements regarding one of McClellan's request; "shoveling fleas across a barnyard" and "they would have to sleep standing up." What McClellan request was President Lincoln referring to?

Q.3 On April 16, 1862 President Lincoln signed a bill that would have far reaching effects on all residents, white and black, that lived in the District of Columbia. Can you identify this Federal Act and its features?

MAY MEETING

Our May meeting will be on **Tuesday May 9, 2006**. Meeting time is 6:30PM, meal cutoff date is **Monday May 1**, call **610-683-4384** for dinner reservation, call after 5PM. Dinner selections are **Baked Ham Steak, Baked Ziti and Broiled Haddock**, dinner price is \$17.00. May program "Chattanooga and Missionary Ridge." Our speakers, fellow members Mike Gabriel and Ron Rhein. This will be a great program, don't miss it! See you in May. Tony Reilly 610-921-3131.