

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 2004

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Hello and welcome back all First Defenders to the opening meeting of our eighth campaign on September 14, 2004. The First Defenders Civil War Round Table looks forward to another great year of good work and good fellowship for all our members and to new members that may join us this year. We are no longer a "rookie" outfit we are a veteran organization that our members have created and developed into an outstanding civil war round table. With this solid background let us begin our eighth campaign.

As we begin our new campaign we have some business items and information to review from our May meeting. At that meeting Rich Kennedy provided final information on our June field trip to 1st and 2nd Manassas. We had an outstanding trip and I have provided a review of the trip in this newsletter.

President Dave Valuska reviewed the issue of Round Table officers for the 2004-2005 campaign and the membership approved all of our present slate of officers to be retained for the coming year. If any future change in the present slate is required we will present that information at future meeting.

At the May meeting three preservation gifts were approved by the membership. \$500.00 to Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, \$250.00 to our friends at Kernstown and \$250.00 to Manassas Battlefields presented during our field trip. Cathie Kennedy received a letter from Central Virginia Battlefields Trust extending their thanks to us for our gift to them. The gift was in memory of members Ted Clarkson, Wilber Garlin, Peggy Reichert and Andy Straka who have recently passed away. If space permits the letter will be attached to this newsletter for your review if not look for it in October.

Our treasurer Arlan Christ advises we start the new campaign with a balance of \$2,506.88 this includes the present preservation fund balance of \$230.00.

Membership chairwomen Pat Christ advises membership dues for the coming year remains at \$15.00 per member. Attached to this newsletter is a renewal form for membership for the coming year. Please review the form fill it out and return as soon as possible. Membership dues for this campaign is due by October 12, 2004 the date of our October meeting.

BOOK RAFFLE/PRESERVATION

Preservation chairman Tom Tate provides the following report. Thanks to Round Table member Richard Baumbach we have received a windfall of donated books for our raffles. Dick generously donated many books from his personal library to the Round Table. This offer adds to our book inventory and will go far to holding down expenses for our raffles. Tom notes that some of the donated books are novels such as *Gods and Generals* and Gore Vidal's monumental *Lincoln* most are solid histories. A number of these histories are the work of prominent author Bruce Catton. The Round Table extends

a sincere thank you to Mr. Baumbach for his thoughtful donation and what it will mean to our preservation efforts.

Our book inventory for the coming season is very good covering a range of topics on the Civil War. Tom adds that we enter this new campaign having donated a total of \$8,640.00 to various preservation groups and projects since the founding of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table. This is an outstanding effort and sum for a Round Table of our size. Let us all keep up the fight for preservation.

MAY PROGRAM REVIEW

Our May program was presented by Mrs. Terry Latscher a Gettysburg Park Ranger. Mrs. Latscher, dressed in period costume, did a "first person" impression of Gettysburg resident Miss Tillie Pierce who lived in the town during the Battle of Gettysburg. Mrs. Latscher titled her talk "What a Girl Saw of the Battle."

"Tillie" was fifteen years old and a student at the Leister Ladies Academy when word came that the "Rebels" were approaching the town. She noted how people began to leave town especially colored folk and how most who stayed in Gettysburg went to their homes. She spoke of the "Rebels" demand for goods such as clothing, shoes, food and money and was shocked by such request. When Union troops arrived in the area she and her sister plus many residents were happy and excited and felt convinced they could not be defeated and victory would be ours.

On July 1 when the "Rebels" returned, this time in large numbers, Tillie's father requested a neighbor Mrs. Shieber to take Tillie with them to a safe area. Tillie spoke of leaving town and moving through the Cemetery Hill area and down the Tannytown Road to the home of Jacob Weigert, a home that still stands. While at the Weigert home Tillie began what she called "my new life." As wounded soldiers came to the house Tillie was called upon to help and for the time she spent there she began to give aid to the wounded. It started as giving water and food but soon she was dressing wounds, holding and comforting the wounded as best she could. By the third day she was assisting the surgeon with his work and also with amputations. Since the Weigert home was near to Little Round Top numerous shells fell in the area of this home and the Weigert barn that housed many of the wounded. Tillie's experiences were such that she had difficulty looking at many of the wounded men she assisted due to their terrible wounds. The first enemy soldiers she saw had been men wounded in the area near the home. Their wounds made her realize they suffered the same pain and types of wounds our own Union soldiers experienced. She could not scold them or refuse them help because of their suffering.

When the battle ended all was horror and desolation with much work yet to be done. Her fear of the "Rebels" had now left her and by July 7 she returned home to find her parents safe. Tillie related her experiences to her mother and said to her "mom I'm home but I'm not the same little girl." Tillie later married and became Mrs. Matilda Pierce Alamond, she had three children and lived in Selingsgrove, Pennsylvania. She became a teacher and died in 1914. Tillie had at one time noted that Gettysburg was a pleasant but monotonous town, but war and the great battle changed Gettysburg forever. Tillie and others like her were certainly a big part of that change.

Our Round Table thanks our speaker Mrs. Terry Latscher for her fine presentation and a first person view of "What a Girl Saw of the Battle."

FIELD TRIP REVIEW

I would like to say June 5, the day of our field trip, was bright, clear and beautiful unfortunately it was not. For the third straight year we left under cloudy skies and rain. However, we had our trip leader Rich Kennedy and his wife Cathie with us and if the sun did not shine outside the bus Rich and Cathie worked hard for it to shine within the bus. As we motored south they kept us entertained, and awake, with comical comments, a song fest, a marbles in a jar counting contest, a movie on the First Battle of Bull Run and a poignant and touching letter written by Major Sullivan Ballou to his wife before he went into Battle at First Bull Run. "Riding with Rich" has become an entertainment package enjoyable to all of us.

This field trip had a full schedule for us on both days, battlefield tours of both First and Second Bull Runs, wonderful dining arrangements, an evening speaker after dinner on Saturday speaking on the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly), free time to browse in Old Town Manassas and an early Saturday evening Wine and Cheese Party sponsored by Gerry and Linda Zeiber. A special thank you to the Zeiber's for the soiree it was well attended and enjoyed.

While we enjoyed our dining and party pleasures it was the battlefield tours that highlighted our trip. Since we have two battlefield tours and one speaker presentation on a third battle to review I will try to present the key comments made by our tour guides and note the key locations we visited. Our tour guide for First Bull Run (Manassas), dressed in a Confederate uniform, was Chuck Weatherhead. After some opening comments on the bus our first tour stop was at the famous "Stone Bridge" on the Warrenton Pike where it crosses the Bull Run waters. Chuck noted the importance of the fords that permitted crossings of the Bull Run. Due to the steep banks and at points the soft river beds these fords were key to the Federal and Confederate forces. The Federals needed to cross Bull Run to gain the flanks of the Confederate forces, the Confederates knowing this fought to hold them. On July 16, 1861 General Irvin Mc Dowell led his army out of Washington. A green untried army moving to face a green untried army. The Union objective was Manassas Junction and the railroads. General Pierre G. T. Beauregard placed his forces at the Bull Run fords of Mitchell, Blackburn and McLean to stop the Federals. Union Brigadier General Daniel Tyler ignoring his orders from McDowell attacked at Blackburn's Ford and was checked by forces led by General James Longstreet. McDowell stopped in his attempt to gain the Confederate right flank then marched to Sudley Springs Ford, our second tour stop, well north of the Stone Bridge to cross there and attack the Confederate left. Chuck pointed out that the strategy of both armies to attack their opponents left created a counter-clockwise movement. With the Federal success at crossing Sudley Springs Ford and moving south on the Sudley Road the battle began to favor the Federals. The Confederates held briefly but were forced to leave Matthews Hill where they had made a stand. McDowell's plan depended on speed and surprise difficult to do with untried troops. Time was lost as the young Union soldiers worked to consolidate their gains. As the Federals took time to reorganize their lines the Confederates did the same on Henry Hill, our final first day visit location. It was at this time that General Jackson and his brigade arrived on the hill and General Barnard Bee made his famous statement "there stands Jackson like a stone wall." Bee then ordered his forces to rally behind the Virginians. Each side fought to gain the hill, Chuck noted Confederate artillery did good work against Union forces in the fight for the hill. Union

artillery not supported by infantry had difficulty in the battle on Henry Hill. When the Federals thought a Confederate regiment to be Union forces coming to support their batteries they held their fire with disastrous results. The Federal guns were taken and the hill and the battle were lost. In this mistake filled battle McDowell had seen victory in his grasp by late morning on July 21 only to have it fall away in two hours. For inexperienced soldiers the men in both armies fought remarkably well. Our guide stated three actions that had much to do with the Confederate victory. Longstreet's fight at Blackburn Ford, Confederate defensive work at the Stone Bridge and Matthews Hill and Jackson's stand on Henry Hill. In this vicious fight the Confederates suffered 387 killed, 1,595 wounded and missing. The Federals 470 killed, 2,864 wounded and missing. Ten hours of fighting swept away any notion the war's outcome would be decided quickly.

On Saturday night after dinner our speaker Paul Goss spoke on the Battle of Ox Hill a battle that followed the Battle of Second Bull Run. Following their success at Second Bull Run General Lee ordered General Jackson on another flank march. Jackson marched east from Manassas with an objective of Germantown seven miles east of Centerville to place his troops between General Pope's army and Washington. Jackson halted at Chantilly, Pope learning of Jackson's intentions sent troops under General Issac Stevens and General Phil Kearny to delay the Confederates while the Federal Army moved to Germantown. The forces clashed at Ox Hill at 5PM on September 1 during a violent rain storm. The fight ended indecisively after two hours of battle. Stevens and Kearny were killed in the fight, but Pope got his army to Germantown before General Lee recognized that Pope had slipped his noose and the Second Manassas campaign was concluded. Due to the late hour on Saturday night Mr. Goss cut his comments on this engagement short his talk however was informative.

On Sunday Paul Goss returned to guide us on our tour of Second Bull Run. He spoke of General Pope's assignment to command the Army of Virginia and the notoriety he gained, both north and south, by his brash comments. On this tour we visited Stuart's Hill the headquarters of both General Lee and General Longstreet. We toured a good portion of the famous railroad cut, including the site of the deep cut where Jackson's Corps strongly defended against the attacks of the bulk of Pope's forces. Pope's uncoordinated attacks breached Jackson's line but each time were forced back. Mr. Goss identified the location of the "rock throwing" incident but made it clear it lasted only a brief time and had no effect on the outcome of the battle. We visited the site where Longstreet's forces clashed with the 5th and 10th New York Regiments, 1,000 men of General Warren's small brigade, who were quickly overrun and decimated in this fast paced action. A visit to Buck Hill, a tough climb for some of us old guys, was the site of Pope's headquarters. Paul noted that during the battle visibility to numerous points on the battlefield was very good from this point on Buck Hill. We then went down the hill, much easier on us old guys, to the Stone House that served as a hospital during the battle. Our final site location was a visit to Chinn Ridge where a heroic stand by Federal troops bought time for Pope to place a final line of defense on the now Sudley-Manassas Road. With his army hard-pressed General Pope retreated across Bull Run to the defenses of Washington.

Unlike First Bull Run this was a battle of seasoned veterans and the cost was great on both sides. The Confederacy had some 8,300 casualties, the Union 10,000. This battle opened the door to the South's first invasion into the North. I personally believe this was Lee's greatest victory, more so than Chancellorsville, but it is only my opinion. I know

you all know much more could be said regarding these battles space being an issue we have noted some of the highpoints of our tour it is a worthwhile trip to Manassas to visit these sites the battlefields are in good condition. We owe a great deal of thanks to our tour guides who did a great job. And the Round Table must extend a sincere thank you to Rich and Cathie Kennedy for putting together a great package of the Bull Run Battlefields. Thank you both many times over!

DID YOU KNOW

"Did You Know" begins this new campaign with a look at Pennsylvania in the Civil War. As the state with the second highest population (some 2.9 million in 1860) and significant heavy industry, Pennsylvania's support of the Lincoln administration and the war effort against the South was crucial to Northern success. The state harbored an antislavery movement and extensive Underground Railroad activity. Governor Andrew Curtin, the first Republican governor of the state, was a staunch supporter of Lincoln and the architect of the state's success during the war. Other men of note from the state during the war were Simon Cameron, Lincoln's first Secretary of War, Galusha Grow a Democrat was the Speaker of the House in 1861, Thaddeus Stevens a Republican and Gettysburg lawyer was a member of the House of Representatives from 1858 to 1868 he was a champion of blacks and the use of black troops. He was also a man of great political power. A Philadelphia financier Jay Cooke played a key but unheralded role in the Northern success. Cooke's firm raised more than one and a half billion dollars in support of the federal government.

Pennsylvania industries supplied much war material. The Allegheny Arsenal manufactured ammunition, the Fort Pitt Works turned out more than 1,100 cannon. Philadelphia boasted a navy yard, ammunition from the Frankford Arsenal, clothing from the Schuylkill Arsenal and the Baldwin Locomotive Works built most railroad engines used by the North during the war. The states coalfields supplied tons of black gold, while state factories churned out all types of war goods.

For the war, Pennsylvania supplied approximately 337,936 white soldiers, 8.8% of the total, including 36,588 militia called to service during the Confederate invasion in 1863. The state also raised 8,612 black soldiers, ranking the commonwealth first among Northern recruitment of blacks. Camp Curtin, located in Harrisburg, was one of the major Northern training camps. All of the state's eleven black regiments were trained at Camp William Penn in Philadelphia. Five companies of the state militia, nicknamed the "First Defenders," were the first troops to respond to Lincoln's call for 75,000 three-month troops to suppress the rebellion. Governor Curtin was active in raising and equipping a total of 25 three-month regiments and the Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer Corps. Pennsylvania troops fought in most major campaigns of the war. Read almost any book or notable magazine on the war and Pennsylvania units will be identified as participating in the many battles reviewed.

The state furnished a number of notable generals. Chief among them were George G. Meade, George B. McClellan, John F. Reynolds, Winfield Scott Hancock, Andrew A. Humphreys, David Birney, John Gibbon and Berks County's own David M. Gregg. Herman Haupt who played a significant role in the success of Union railroads was also a Pennsylvanian. The states most notable naval officer was David D. Porter.

Pennsylvania was one of the few Northern states which experienced Confederate activity during the war most notable was the Gettysburg campaign by General Lee in

1863 and Confederate Cavalry attacking Chambersburg in 1864. It would be very fair to state that Pennsylvania played a key role in the Civil War and its contributions, men and materials, were an important factor in the Union success. This is a brief look at Pennsylvania and her efforts during the war I hope you found it of interest.

CIVIL WAR USAGE

Battle Flag---A banner that was carried into battle and served as a focal point for a company since battlefields quickly were filled with powder smoke and the din of fighting drowned out the orders of officers. Many units on both sides inscribed upon their flags the names of the engagements in which they had fought. Such battle flags were trophies whose capture was second in importance only to that of an artillery battery.

To Cashier---To dismiss from military service dishonorably or with ignominy. This course of action was rarely taken with enlisted men, most of who were punished and retained.

Line of Battle---(Army) The shape of an attacking force only two ranks deep. (Navy) The position of warships in preparation to launch or receive an attack.

Skirmish Line---The point at which special groups of skirmishers, who move in advance of relatively large bodies of troops, came into contact with the enemy.

Tory---A Unionist in the South who remained in Confederate territory. Such persons were often accused of treason, making them subject to property seizures and imprisonment. Some of the most violent confrontations between Unionist and Confederates took place in Eastern Tennessee and Missouri.

SEPTEMBER QUIZ

Q.1 He was the youngest cadet ever to attend the United States Military Academy. Can you name him?

Q.2 In March 1861 prior to the start of the American Civil War the United States Army had four (4) general officers in service they commanded the bulk of the 12,698 men in the American Army. Can you name any or all of these four officers?

Q.3 This Confederate general officer was known by numerous nicknames at various times in his life and also after his death. Three of the nicknames were "Square Box", "Old Hickory" and "Old Blue Light." Can you identify this officer?

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our September meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday September 14, 2004**. Meeting time is 6:30PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. We request members planning to attend the meeting to make reservations by our cutoff date **September 8**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533** if you leave a message please speak clearly leaving your name and meal selection. Dinner selections for the September meeting include **Ham Steak, Baked Ziti and Grilled Salmon**. Our dinner price is \$16.00

Our speaker for the September meeting will be fellow member Dave Fox who will present a program titled "A Portrait of General David McMurtrie Gregg." We know Dave and we are reasonably familiar with General Gregg. This sounds like a good combination so plan to attend the opening meeting and program of our eighth campaign. Lets have a good start to what should be a great year.

A REMINDER—MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS ARE ATTACHED

Tony Reilly Newsletter Editor 610-921-3131

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

OCTOBER 2004

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Vice President Ron Rhein opened our September meeting, and the start of our eighth campaign, with a warm welcome to the 62 members and guest in attendance. Ron reviewed the present program schedule as it now stands for the coming year. He noted the program for our December meeting is still under review. We are working to obtain an upscale group from New Jersey that will provide a greater variety of entertainment than some of our past December programs. If successful in obtaining the New Jersey group we will also attempt to provide an improved menu for December. The cost of our December meeting would probably be more than our monthly meal cost due to the improvement in entertainment and meal choice. Our January program, usually our Round Table discussion, may also be replaced this campaign with a presentation on "The First Defenders" taken from a book recently published under the same title. The author of the book Mr. John Hoptack would be our speaker. As always more to come on these two programs so stay tuned.

At a Board of Directors meeting in early August the board approved a suggestion by President Dave Valuska to purchase a dozen of the books "The First Defenders" that the Round Table would present to speakers as a gift for speaking to our organization. This book will also be made available to the membership to purchase if you so desire.

The board also reviewed a suggestion by member Dick Auman that we look into securing a speaker at a future time to present a program on the subject of military staffing in the Civil War and how it compares to present day staffing. The board supports this request and has encouraged Dick to develop and look to obtaining a speaker on this subject. Dick has been working on this issue and we hope to have success in obtaining a speaker on this subject. The program would probably be part of our ninth campaign program list. Yes, we are already working on next year's speakers and programs.

Because we have some membership changes each year we would like to encourage members to wear their name tags at our meetings for obvious reasons. Let us try to improve on this issue in coming meetings.

The board is considering obtaining stationery with a First Defenders letterhead and a list of the board members and the offices held for us to use when communicating in writing regarding Round Table business.

We are concerned with the possibility of winter weather causing a need to cancel a meeting. Board member Dave Fox will be looking into and addressing this issue with the membership as soon as we have a solid method of handling snow cancellations. One more time, stay tuned.

Cathie Kennedy read notes and comments of appreciation and thanks sent to the Round Table by families and friends of our four recently deceased members. We heard

from Mrs. Ted Clarkson, Mary Garlin, the family of Andy Straka and a telephone call from Paul Foust and Vicki Ferguson for Peggy Reichert.

Pat Christ presented her first membership renewal report. Pat noted we had 55 paid renewals as of our September meeting date. Our membership close date is October 12, 2004 the date of our October meeting. Please send your renewal form to Pat as soon as possible. Pat also noted we have five people on our membership waiting list. Hopefully we can finalize this issue by our October meeting.

Arlan Christ treasurer's report gave us a balance of \$2,499.19 this includes \$230.00 in our preservation fund. This report does not include raffle ticket sales for our September meeting.

BOOK RAFFLE/PRESERVATION

Tom Tate reported members purchased \$151.00 in raffle tickets at our September meeting. He also noted a \$5.00 donation to the preservation fund. This gives our preservation fund a total of \$386.00 to date. Tom feels we are in a position to support any crisis situation in battlefield preservation that may develop in an emergency. Worthy sites for future gifts can be suggested at any time.

Vice President Ron Rhein expressed continued interest in our supporting a western battlefield. The Newsletter supports this interest and hopes the Round Table will give consideration to this in the near future.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM REVIEW

"A Portrait of Major General David McMurtrie Gregg" was the topic of our September meeting program. The program was presented by Round Table members David Fox and Roger Cotterill. Dave presented a detailed view of General Gregg's life and military service. Roger reviewed the General's leadership at the Battle of Gettysburg during the cavalry action between Confederate forces commanded by J.E.B. Stuart and Gregg's command at the East Cavalry Battlefield. This review will not be as detailed as our speaker's presentation but will present some of the high points of their comments.

David M. Gregg was born in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania on April 10, 1833. He was the third of nine children of Matthew D. Gregg and Ellen McMurtrie. By age 14 Gregg lost both his parents to illness and he went to live with an uncle. In 1850 he joined a brother at the University of Lewisburg, which later became Bucknell University. On June 4, 1851 Gregg was admitted as a cadet at West Point. At West Point there were two upperclassmen who would play a huge part in his later years as a Union cavalry officer. The two men J.E.B. Stuart the leader of the Confederate Cavalry and Philip Henry Sheridan who would develop the use of cavalry as mounted infantry. David Gregg was not a man or an officer who had a gift for the dramatic, and he had no particular admiration for those who did have a sense of showmanship, a factor that was much different than the actions of both Stuart and Sheridan. When Gregg entered West Point his class had 71 cadets, at graduation only 34 graduated. David Gregg graduated eighth in scholastic standing in his class in June 1855. This class finish allowed Gregg a choice in selecting his place in the service. He chose the cavalry and began his military career in this branch of service. While a cadet Gregg met Miss Ellen Sheaff of Reading, Pennsylvania eight years later after the Battle of Antietam Gregg received a furlough and married Miss Sheaff on October 6, 1862.

Like many graduate of West Point he was assigned to western duty at locations in New Mexico, Missouri, California and Washington territory. Gregg's West Point friend

future Confederate General Dorsey Pender served with him in New Mexico. While out west Lt. Gregg was engaged in several battles with the Indians. On April 12, 1861, dispatches went to the officers of the United States Army calling them to duty in the east. Gregg and his friend Pender returned east, one to serve the North the other the South. When Lt. Gregg arrived in Washington he had been promoted to Captain and assigned to the United States 3rd Cavalry in May 1861. A few months later he was transferred to the 6th Cavalry. Following an illness he returned to his regiment on January 24, 1862 and then accepted the position as Colonel of the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry, a new regiment that included many Pennsylvania troops. Gregg's cavalry unit fought with the Army of the Potomac during the Seven Days Battle and engagements up to Fredericksburg where he was appointed Brigade Commanding Officer following the death of Colonel George Bayard. Following Fredericksburg Gregg was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. Dave took us through the Battle of Brandy Station and the cavalry fights at Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville.

At this time Roger Cotterill gave us a detailed review of the East Cavalry Battlefield fight at Gettysburg. Roger attributed Gregg's leadership as the key to Federal success in this fight. Roger covered the attempt by Stuart's Confederate force to cut Meade's line of communications and get in the rear of the Federal Army. Stuart, with a larger force than Gregg, was repulsed after heavy fighting in which both sides fought mounted and on foot. Roger also noted the effective work of the Federal artillery that played an important part in the Union success at East Cavalry field.

Dave returned and we learned of Gregg's cavalry division continuing two more years of hard fighting after Gettysburg. In 1864 Gregg's Division served under Phil Sheridan who commanded the Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac. When Sheridan went to the Shenandoah Valley David Gregg commanded all the remaining cavalry of the Army of the Potomac. Gregg was brevetted a Major General USV on August 1, 1864.

On February 8, 1865 General Gregg resigned his commission in the United States Army. He gave, and no one seems to know for sure, no specific reason for resigning except for personal and private reasons.

After the war General Gregg spoke of cavalry misuse due mainly to the lack of proper corps organization, units broken up to serve various headquarters guard functions and units used on other useless details. He believed the Confederate Cavalry conducted cavalry operations the way they should have been done. Raids on communications, capturing or destroying material or supplies and quick-hitting attacks in the enemy rear. Cavalry should be mobile infantry to be effective.

General Gregg died on August 7, 1916 in Reading, Pennsylvania and is buried in the Charles Evans Cemetery. The Round Table thanks our speakers and fellow members Dave Fox and Roger Cotterill for their fine presentation of a "Portrait of Major General David McMurtrie Gregg." Good work gentlemen!

At this point as Newsletter editor I would like to add to our speakers comments on General Gregg two items I believe give a clear picture of the person David M. Gregg. The first is by Harry Pfanz Chief Historian of the National Park Service in 1981 and author of three outstanding books on the Battle of Gettysburg. Pfanz states "General Gregg was one of the Union's more mature and modest cavalry leaders who received less notice than upstarts like George Custer, Judson Kilpatrick and others of their ilk." The second comes from the Dictionary of American Biographies (DAB) "A rare combination

of modesty, geniality and ability, he was universally liked and respected." Truly nothing more need be added in defining General Gregg!

DID YOU KNOW

What was a brevet rank? For practical purpose brevet rank was usually an honorary rank awarded to an officer for valor or meritorious action in time of war. The tradition of brevet rank began in the British Army before the Revolutionary War and this tradition continued in the United States Military. In the years after the Revolutionary War, Congress wrote legislation that specified the circumstances under which brevet rank could be awarded and defined the actual amount of authority that brevet ranks gave to the award receiver. In general brevet ranks were higher than the individual's official rank, but held none of the authority or the pay of that higher rank. There were occasions, however, when an officer could claim that his brevet rank be recognized as real rank. The regulations established were so vague that controversies arose throughout the war.

Brevet rank had no real significance while an officer continued to serve within his own service unit organization, such as company, regiment, brigade, division and corps, noted here as a member of infantry, artillery, engineers and such. His brevet rank could have the recognition of real rank when serving on a court-martial and on detached service. You can see why controversies did develop. Often during the war it was difficult to judge from an officer's title or uniform what his actual position and command maybe.

The Civil War created situations in which the awarding of brevet ranks became commonplace. More than 1,700 officers and at least one enlisted man were awarded brevet ranks during the war, the majority of these ranks being awarded at war's end as a gesture of thanks. An interesting situation that developed for officers during the war was that an officer could simultaneously hold a state militia rank, a rank in the United States Volunteers, a rank in the United States Army and a brevet rank. Though the regulations of the Confederate Army provided for the awarding of brevet ranks, there is no evidence of a brevet rank ever being awarded to a Confederate officer. If any member of the Round Table has information of such an award to a Confederate officer please let me know and we will post that fact in a future newsletter.

After the Civil War, the awarding of brevet rank became less and less common. Several brevet ranks were awarded during the Spanish-American War. The last brevet rank in the United States was given to Tasker H. Bliss in 1918. Bliss a Lieutenant General was awarded the brevet rank of full general to allow him equal status of European delegates at the Paris Peace Conference.

I offer one last light-hearted comment on this subject. Since 1,700 officers received higher rank by brevet and only one enlisted man it still held back to the Civil War that "rank has its privileges."

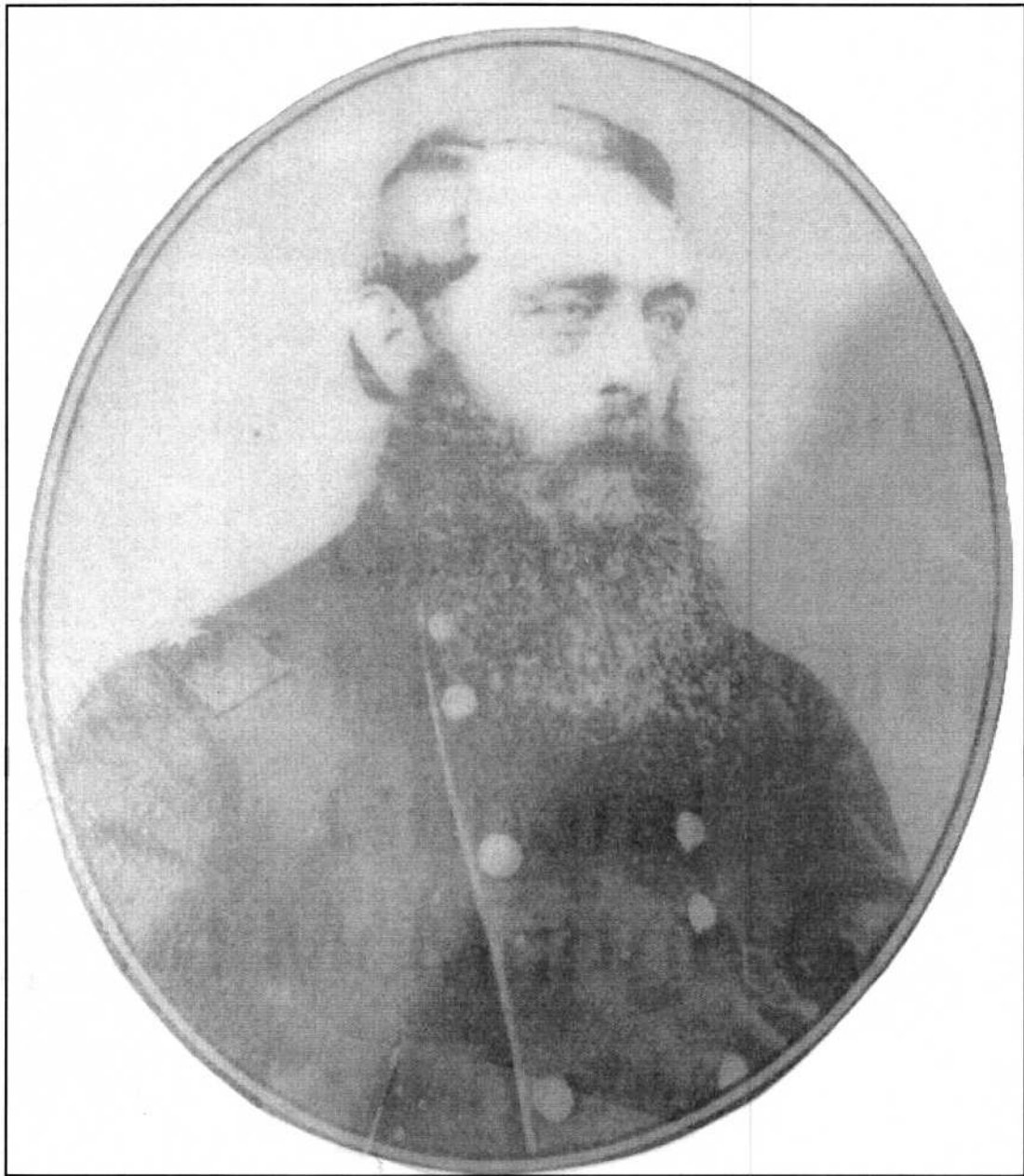
CIVIL WAR USAGE

ABATIS---Occasionally spelled "abattis," this defense structure consisted of felled trees with their tops pointing outward and usually their limbs cut off two feet from the trunk and sharpened. The Union and Confederates borrowed this idea from Great Britain and Europe, where it was frequently used. This is a frequently used term in Civil War books and articles and was a frequently used procedure in defensive tactics.

LUCY---A derisive nickname for Confederate General George E. Pickett.

PIECE---A general term for a field gun and occasionally reserved as a designation for light artillery. At other times was used to identify an infantryman's rifle.

General David McMurtrie Gregg



The First Defenders
CWRT
September 2004

General David McMurtrie Gregg

- Born Huntington, PA April 10, 1833
- Cadet USM Academy July 1, 1851
- Graduated USM Acad. Sept 4, 1855
- Captain 3rd US Cavalry May 14, 1861
- Colonel 8th Penn. Cavalry Jan 24, 1862
- Brig. General US Vol 9 Nov 29, 1862
- Resigned Feb 8, 1865
- Died Reading Aug 7, 1916

Copy of Will

I David M^m Gregg of the City of Reading, do make, declare, and publish this my last will and testament

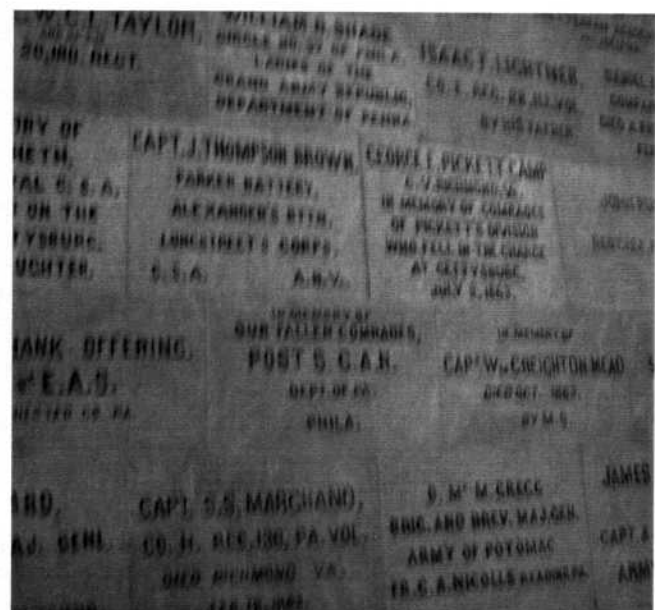
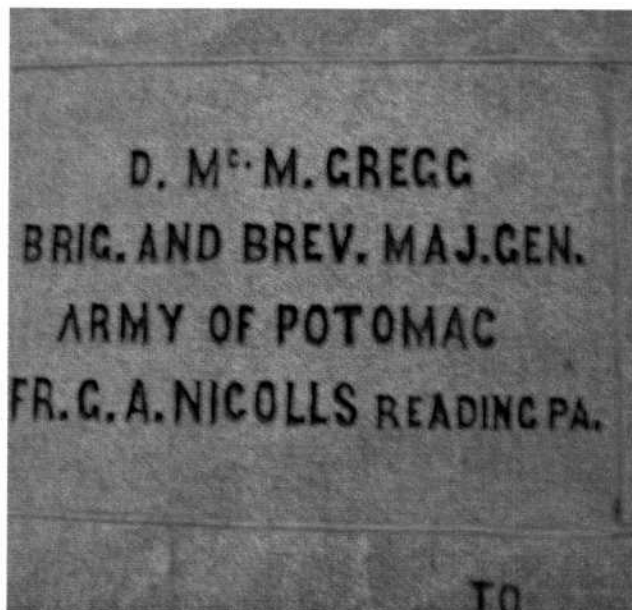
1st I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Ellen F. Gregg my entire estate whether real, personal or mixed and direct that no inventory of same be made or account rendered.

2^d Should I survive my wife Ellen F. Gregg, I give and bequeath to my sons George S. Gregg and David M. Gregg, all my books, pictures, household goods, silver plate and jewelry to be shared by them equally.

The Residue of my estate, I hereby place in trust to the Executive herein after named for the following purpose to wit, that the income derived therefrom shall be paid to my sons George S. Gregg and David M. Gregg, share and share alike during the terms of their natural lives - Should either of my said sons die leaving surviving lawful issue of his body, such issue shall receive one half of my estate thus held in trust - Should there be no surviving lawful issue then the surviving son shall receive the entire income during the term of his natural life, and his lawful issue if any shall inherit my entire estate - Should there be no surviving lawful issue of either son they both having died, I direct, that my estate shall be directed as follows, one third to be given to The Protestant Episcopal Church of the Prince of Peace at Gethsemane Pk. - One third to the General Bishops Relief Fund of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and one third to the Home for Friendless Children in this City.

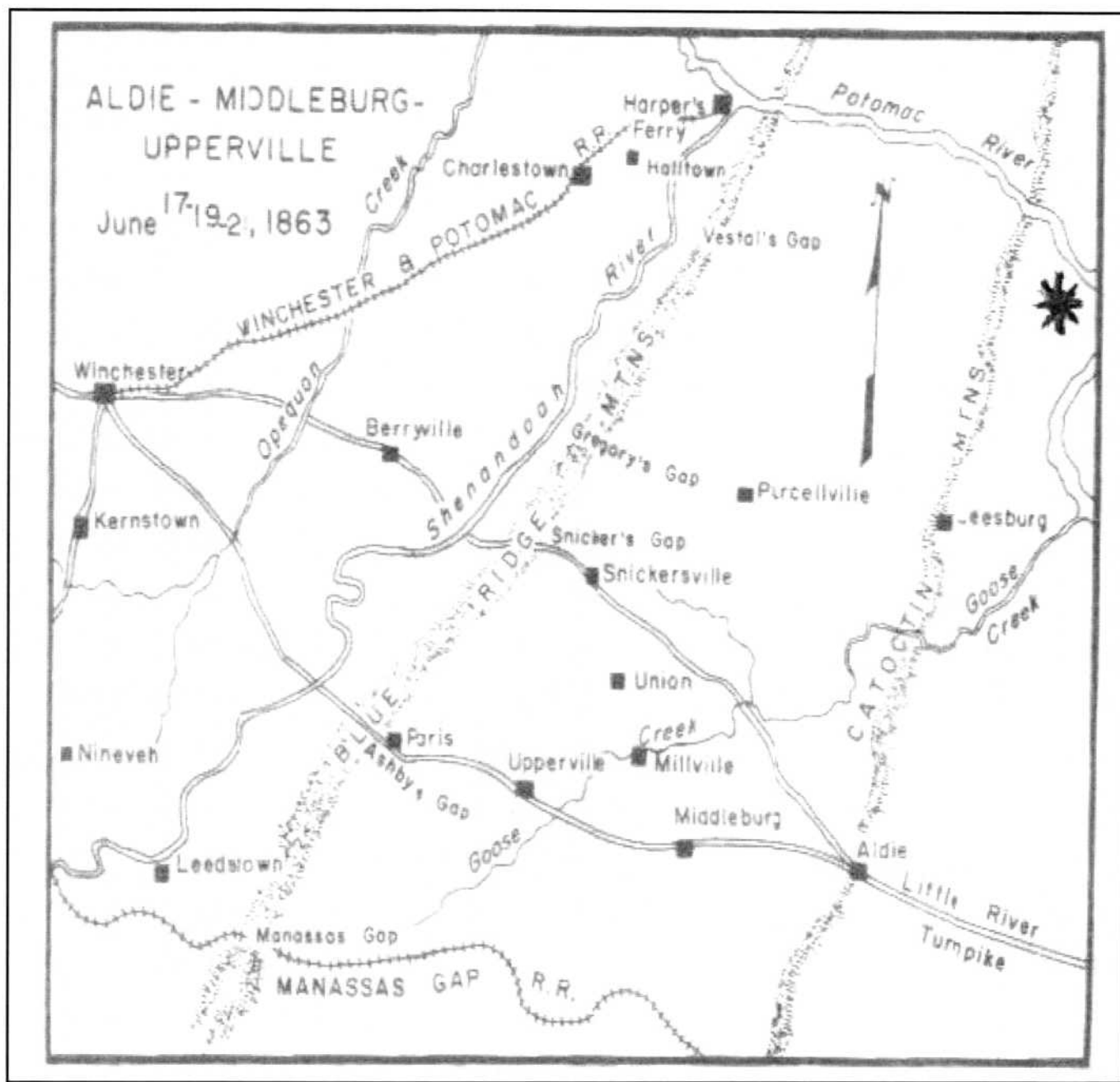
I hereby nominate and appoint my wife Ellen F. Gregg, Executor

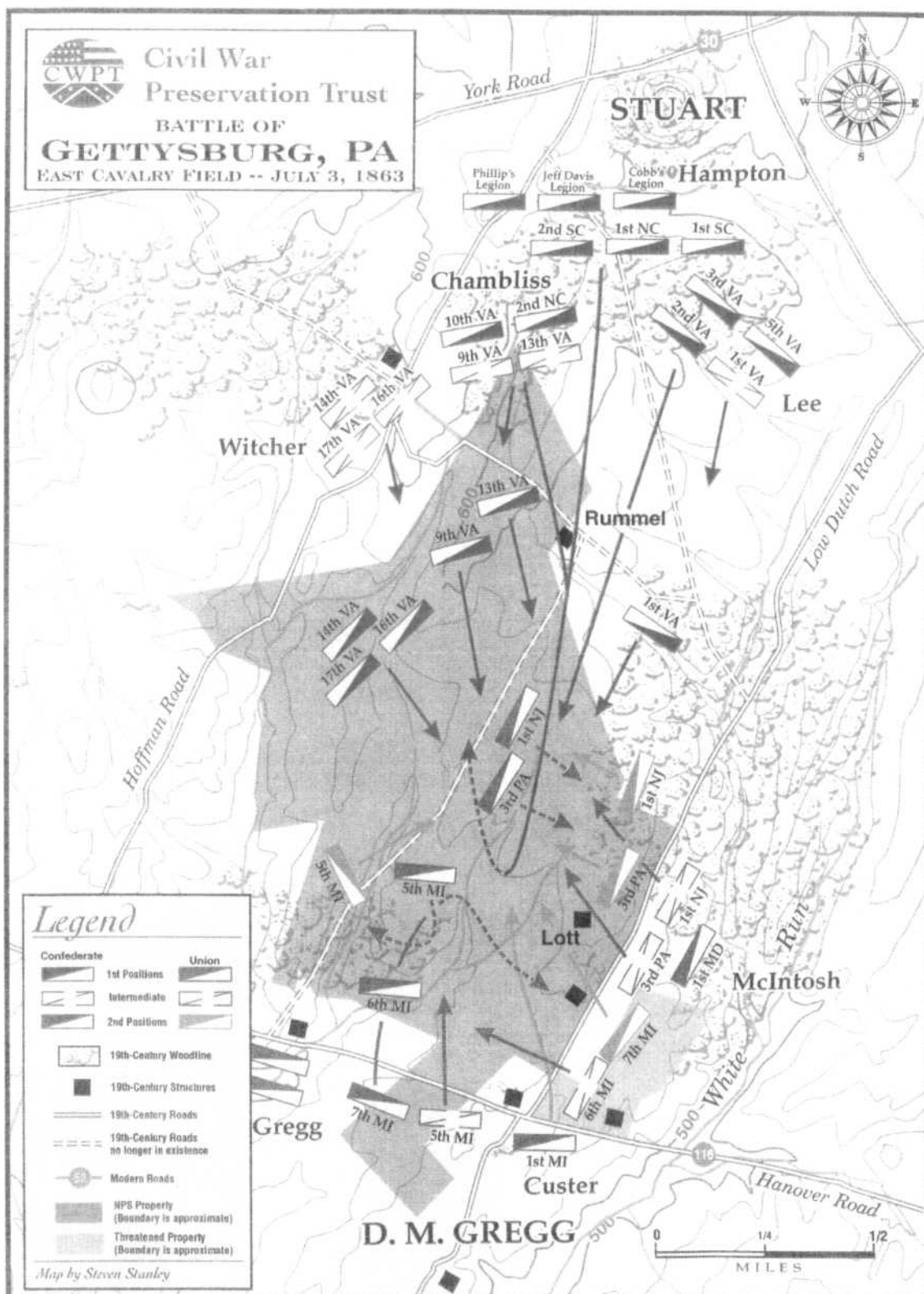
Prince of Peace Episcopal Church Gettysburg



MAP
of the
BATTLE OF BRANDY STATION
JUNE 9, 1863









General David McMurtrie Gregg

Bibliography (thumbnail)

- Alberts, Don E. *General Wesley Merritt*
- Morris, Roy Jr. *Sheridan*
- Nesbit, Mark *Saber and Scapegoat Mechanicsburg, Pa.*
- Sears Stephen W. *Gettysburg*
- Wert, Jeffrey D. *Gettysburg Day Three*
- Starr, Stephen Z. *The Union Cavalry in the Civil War-Vol 1*
- Longacre, Edward G. *The Cavalry at Gettysburg.*
General John Buford.
- Brooke-Rawle, William *History of the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry*
- Gregg, David M. *The Union Cavalry at Gettysburg*
- Kidd, James H. *Personal Recollections of a Cavalryman in*
Custer's Michigan Brigade
- Meyer, Henry C. *Civil War Experiences under Bayard, Gregg,*
Kilpatrick, Custer, Raulston, and Newbury.
- Pyne Henry R. *The History of the First New Jersey Cavalry*
- Wittenberg, Eric J. *Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Action*
Glory Enough for All: Sheridan's Second Raid
and the Battle of Trevillian Station.
Protecting the Flank: The Battle of Brinkerhoff's
Ridge and the East Cavalry Field, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
The Union Cavalry comes of Age.
"John Buford and the Gettysburg Campaign"
(Gettysburg Historical Articles of Lasting Interest 11 July 1994)
"Learning the Hard Lessons of Logistics: Arming
and Maintaining the Federal Cavalry" (North & South January 1999)
The Nobleman Who Never Was: The Strange
Case of Alfred Duffie" (North & South April 2002)
- Weigley, Russell F. *"David McMurtrie Gregg: A Personality Profile.*
(Civil War Times November 1962)
- Burgess, Milton V. *David Gregg: Pennsylvania Cavalryman. (State*
College 1984)
- Merritt, Wesley *Personal Recollections – Beverly's Ford to*
Mitchell's Station 1863
- Rodenbough, Theophilus F. *Personal Recollections –The Stoneman Raid of*
'63
- Sheridan, Philip H. *Personal Memoirs of P. H. Sheridan 2 Vols*
- Wilson, James Harrison *"The Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac"*
(Papers of the Military Historical Society of Massachusetts 13 1913)
- Historical Soc.of Berks County *Vol LIX, #1 Winter 1993-1994*
- Historical Soc.of Berks County *Vol LXI, #1 Fall 1996*
- Historical Soc.of Berks County *"Historical Review of Berks County"(Mag. 1962)*
- Gregg, David McMurtrie Jr. *"Brevet Major General David McMurtrie Gregg"*
(Typed manuscripts at Library of Congress, Washington. and Library of the Berks
County Historical Society, Reading.)

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 2004

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Prior to the start of our meeting in a conversation with our guest speaker he asked me if I knew the attendance for the evening. Advising him our number for the evening was 65 members and guest he asked if this was a normal turnout for our Round Table. I told him over the past number of months we had been averaging about 67 per meeting. He told me this was a fine turnout for a round table meeting as he normally spoke to round table groups of 25 members or less. He noted our round table was the largest such organization he had ever spoke to. I felt this was a compliment to our organization and I wanted to pass it on to all our members.

President Dave Valuska opened our business meeting with comments and a request regarding next year's field trip. Dave noted it was not too early to discuss this issue as time is required to put a trip together. He asked the membership to make suggestions regarding a site to visit in the coming months. Dave suggested members who have an opinion add it to their telephone call when making dinner reservations for a future meeting or speak to any member of the board of directors with your suggestion. You can offer more than one visit site if you so chose. Don't be shy give us your input and views.

Dave then turned to our December and January meetings and issues we have been reviewing since September. A decision has been made for our January meeting instead of an annual Round Table discussion we will present a program on "The First Defenders" by Mr. John Hoptack who recently had a book he authored published under the same title. This will be Mr. Hoptack's second visit to the Round Table as a speaker. In November 2001 he presented a talk on the 48th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment at the Battle of the Crater. For our December meeting, after a reasonable review with attending members, we have finalized the choice of a program for that meeting. Having discussed the possibility of having an upscale musical presentation and providing an improved menu for December with a meeting cost of \$25.00 per person Dave put the options to the membership at the meeting of having the musical program and dinner or a normal meeting with our regular dinner cost and a social evening with a general discussion on a subject to be determined. Dave asked for a hand count of the members present on both options. Both received votes but the choice of a social evening and open discussion received the most votes. Following the October meeting a quickly called meeting of board members present was called to obtain comments on a subject for the December meeting. The board desired to finalize a topic so members could be advised in this newsletter and at the November meeting. After some comment Tom Tate placed a recommendation that gained board support. Tom suggested the meeting be opened to all members to present comments on a book or books of the Civil War they have read or are presently reading that they found of interest and this interest could be extended to other members who may wish to read the books recommended. Do not view this as a book

review in detail but a recommendation of a book you found of interest. We have all read books on varied subjects on the war this would be a good opportunity to express your views why you found a book to be of interest. With an open meeting any member will have the opportunity to participate, this is what we hope will take place, so come to the meeting and let your fellow members in on the book or books you liked and found worthwhile. You will probably hear more on this issue at the November meeting. Stay tuned!

One additional point on the December meeting was mentioned by Dave, period costume is welcomed and suggested if you have the attire.

Membership chairwomen Pat Christ advised the meeting we have 92 renewals for our coming year as of the October meeting date. She has not heard from 12 previous members and it is her intention to call each of these members to determine their interest in maintaining membership for this campaign year. Pat will probably be able to present a final membership count at our November meeting.

Arlan Christ provided our latest treasurer's report. Balance on 9-14-04 \$2,499.19, new income \$2,121.00, new expenses \$1,181.75, new balance as of 10-12-04 \$3,438.44. Our preservation fund is \$386.00.

Mike Gabriel advised he had received the dozen books on "The First Defenders" that the Round Table will present to future speakers as a gift for speaking to our organization. Books were presented to Dave Fox and Roger Cotterill for their September presentation on General David M. Gregg and to our speaker Mr. Patrick Fairbairn for our October program.

I believe board member Dave Fox will provide information on a snow cancellation procedure, if required, at the November meeting.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Jack Gurney is back and he brought an 1856 Starr .44 Caliber Double Action Percussion Revolver for our viewing pleasure. The handgun weighed 3 pounds and chambered 6 rounds. It was produced and patented in 1856 by Ebenezer T. Starr of Binghamton, New York. The United States Government contracted to purchase 25,000 of the Starr weapons from 1861 to 1865. Jack noted this handgun was a major Civil War firearm. Tom Tate offered some additional info on this weapon in addition to Jack's comments. The Starr revolver was one of the best and most modern revolvers of the Civil War. The Starr had a trigger system very similar to the mechanisms used in today's revolvers. The revolver was produced in both .36 and .44 caliber. By May 1863 the company produced and delivered just over 16,000 .44 caliber weapons to the government. Tom also notes that a model like the one Jack brought to the October meeting is on display in the West Point Museum. The Newsletter understands from both Jack and Tom that Mr. Gurney is starting a second collection specializing in Civil War era handguns. This should give us all something to look forward to in future meetings. Our thanks to Jack for providing the Starr for our viewing pleasure and for his and Tom Tate's information on this Civil War weapon.

BOOK RAFFLE / PRESERVATION

Tom Tate reports we raised another \$140.00 for preservation at the October meeting. This brings our preservation fund to \$526.00. Many thanks to all for supporting our ticket raffles. Tom also extends his appreciation for the generous book donations made by several members. This generosity helps keep our book expenses low. Tom feels we

should end this campaign, next May, with a healthy amount in our preservation fund and we should be in a position to aid any endangered sites. We will probably look to consider a western battlefield in need for a preservation gift. Vice President Ron Rhein is a strong supporter of making a contribution to a western site and the Newsletter also supports this western view. As always members are encouraged too provide input on possible gift choices. We can also look to Civil War Preservation Trust for site information based on need.

OCTOBER PROGRAM REVIEW

I have been a member of the Round Table since our charter days and have heard every presentation to our organization except one, some six years ago. We have had many excellent talks by guest and members but I start this review by stating that our October program, a portrayal of William Lloyd Garrison by our guest speaker Mr. Patrick E. Fairbairn of Trenton, New Jersey must go down as one of the best presentations we have had. Speaking in the first person, and dressed in period costume, Mr. Fairbairn, gave us a historical impression of William Garrison presenting his views and opinions to a local audience in the village of Moselem Springs, Pennsylvania regarding the evils of slavery.

This presentation was not about battles and leaders of the Civil War, since it took place in 1850. We could suggest however it was a presentation on the war against slavery by a man who insisted that opposition to slavery was more vital than the preservation of the Union and because the Constitution of the United States in 1850 protected slavery he at one time burned a copy of this document in public, calling the document "a covenant with death and an agreement with hell." Garrison was a member of a group of abolitionist that wanted slavery outlawed throughout the land and blacks absorbed into society on an equal footing with whites and Garrison, from Newburyport, Massachusetts, was the fiercest of them all.

Mr. Garrison was born in 1805 and faced childhood difficulties that left him with a compassionate attitude toward the poor and a desire to fight social injustice. In 1831 at age 25, living in Boston, he started planning the publication of his own newspaper "The Liberator." Its first issue was on New Years Day in 1831. In his talk Mr. Garrison identified himself as a man well know for his anti-slavery position, a person notorious to be an abolitionist, though it was not a crime to be one, and a radical troublemaker on the slave issue. In the publishing of his newspaper Garrison clarified the above noted radical implications of his position on slavery with the famous words "I will be as harsh as truth, and as uncompromising as justice and I will be heard." Our speaker stated that trouble in the land over slavery has always been with us. We have ignored it due to the Southern States threats to leave the Union. Sadly the Northern people are indifferent to slavery. Garrison contended that slavery was a violation of the principles of the Declaration of Independence, a doctrine stating that "all men are created equal," therefore he demanded immediate action for the abolition of slavery. Our speaker stated that slavery was first and foremost a sin in the eyes of God, while slaveholders were sinners who inflicted pain upon innocent victims. He also stated that all Northerners carried a share of guilt because they allowed slavery to continue without taking action against it. Slavery was a moral issue it was wrong, it must be eradicated.

Mr. Garrison spoke harshly of three politicians, Henry Clay who wanted to colonize the slaves to Liberia, John Calhoun who suggested slavery was in a position of good

since 1846 and Daniel Webster who stated "let the South keep slavery so the Union can be saved" and for criticizing abolitionist for not having enough devotion to the Union. Garrison also had problems with the founding fathers view that slavery would end on its own and that slaveholders could be devout Christians. Garrison's view of these positions was to state "ridiculous." In the South I was "that devil Garrison," I was a madman and a disturber of the peace and other unpleasant views.

There is no question William Lloyd Garrison was a powerful and influential advocate of abolition, in his time a thorn in the side of those who were pro-slavery. Despite all his efforts, because of his radical opinions, he was relegated to the fringes of American politics in his time, where there was a place for his uncompromising attitude against slavery. Even his newspaper, at its high point, never exceeded a circulation of 3,000. It took a Civil War to ultimately solve Garrison's problems regarding slavery. In 1863 with the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation he took this as recognition of slavery being the real cause of the war. In 1865 with Union victory Garrison believed his mission was finished. He abandoned his American Anti-Slavery Society and closed the door on his newspaper the Liberator. His war on slavery was over.

We could provide additional review of our program but as always space is an issue. William Lloyd Garrison must be viewed as a man of conviction and courage for it must have taken a great effort on his part to follow his beliefs at a time when they may not have been greatly appreciated. Even in receiving death threats he stayed the course of his beliefs. In 1850 some of his views may have been received positively, however Garrison's view of the Constitution as "a covenant with death and an agreement with hell," and "the American Union an experience of failure" may well have placed him to many as anti-American and unpatriotic to a people trying to create a more perfect American Union. This plus his uncompromising views on slavery made his efforts at abolition always opened to question and ridicule and stood in the way of his gaining the changes in slavery he so desired if in fact he had any chance of changing them under any circumstances in 1850. Nevertheless, William Lloyd Garrison was probably a good man who wanted to do the right thing.

Mr. Garrison's presentation on the evil's of slavery was articulate and well presented. Having heard his views we the citizens of Moselem Springs can each make our own decision on how we viewed our speaker's crusade of words regarding those evils he spoke of.

The Round Table extends a sincere thank you to Mr. Patrick E. Fairbairn and his wife Mary Ellen for being our guest and providing our Round Table with one of its finest programs.

DID YOU KNOW

America's First Machine Gun

At the onset of the American Civil War, many American inventors turned their talents to improving the tools of war. The inventor in search of a government contract had to contend with the bureaucracy of the Army Ordnance Department, Navy Ordnance Bureau, generals and politicians. However, there was one man inventors turned to in the U.S. Government who had both the will and the power to push the development of new weapons-President Lincoln.

Living at the beginning of the machine age, President Lincoln was keenly aware of the technological advances that were taking place around him. The war came and he

turned his mechanical bent to the improvement of the tools of war. He saw many weapons trials, most held at his insistence. Many ordinance bureau personnel regarded these trials with annoyance and contempt, feeling they were rigged to impress the President. They nicknamed the President's experiments and trials as the "champagne" experiments. Many of these "champagne" experiments took place at Washington Arsenal (known today as Fort McNair, home of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces).

In June 1861, a New York politician by the name of Simeon Draper badgered Colonel James W. Ripley, Chief of Army Ordinance, into a test firing of the Union Repeating Gun a single rifle barrel with an ingenious breech mechanism that held .58 caliber paper cartridges. President Lincoln had seen the new weapon previously and nicknamed the device the "Coffee Mill Gun" because of the hopper on the weapon. The President, the Governor of Connecticut, three cabinet members, and five generals witnessed the test firing at Washington Arsenal and all were impressed.

I note at this point that the Union Repeating Gun is not the same weapon known to most of us as a Gatling gun. The Gatling gun was introduced in 1862 by its inventor Richard Jordan Gatling. This weapon had six rifled barrels revolving on a central axis turned by a hand crank. Though one of the most recognizable pieces of weaponry produced in America, it saw limited use during the Civil War because it suffered from design flaws and the Army Ordinance Department refused to purchase the weapon from its designer.

Returning to the Union Repeating Gun, in December of 1861, President Lincoln gave the order to purchase 50 of the "Coffee Mill Guns" at a cost of \$735.00 each. The end of 1861 brought the first machine gun into the United States Army's tools of war. From these humble beginnings, the machine gun is recognized as one of the few tools of war that revolutionized warfare. President Lincoln's vision in recognizing the promise of this emerging weapon led to a new age of warfare.

I conclude this narrative on (America's First Machine Gun) with this comment and question. In my reading of the Civil War I have never come across any article or statement in books or magazines regarding the use of a "machine gun" in any battle or combat action. If any member who reads this review has some information on such use of the Union Repeating Gun I would be interested knowing where and when this weapon was utilized.

CIVIL WAR USAGE

BAND BOX REGIMENTS---These were Federal Regiments formed late in the conflict from affluent and professional men, many of whom wore white gloves when they drilled.

TO GO SOUTH---To turn in one's commission as an officer in the U. S. Army or Navy in order to fight for the Confederacy. Many of the most capable leaders of Southern forces were West Point graduates and experienced fighting men who placed loyalty to their state or region above loyalty to the nation.

KNOW-NOTHINGS---This was a popular designation of the American Party, a mid-nineteenth century political organization that tried to operate secretly. When questioned about the party, its goals, or its activities, members swore they knew nothing about such things. This response led editor Horace Greeley of the New York Tribune to coin the name.

TO OPERATE ON---To direct fire at a specific position, unit, battery or warship.

RANK AND FILE---A collective term referring to all enlisted men and non-commission officers as opposed to commission officers.

NOVEMBER QUIZ

Q.1 During the war there were more than 100,000 general court-martials in the Union Army. Can you name the four most frequent court-martial offenses?

Q.2 During the Civil War the United States Navy suffered the loss of four Monitor class ships, one being the U. S. S. Monitor that was engaged in the first battle involving iron-clad warships. Can you name the other three Monitors lost during the war?

Q.3 This Confederate general officer became the one and only former Confederate who became a Brigadier General in the regular army of the United States. Name him?

NOVEMBER MEETING

Our November meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday November 9, 2004**. Meeting time is 6:30PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Members are requested to make dinner reservations by our cutoff date **November 3**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533** if you leave a message please speak clearly leaving your name and dinner selection. Dinner selections for the November meeting include **Shepherd's Pie, Grilled Salmon and Pot Pie**. Our dinner price is \$16.00.

Our speakers for the November meeting will be Robert and Sharon Werner who will present, I believe, an in costume presentation on the United States Sanitary Commission. With the growth of the United States Army at the beginning of the Civil War northern civilians developed an organization dedicated to providing medical care, supplies, and other comforts and necessities to the soldiers in the field. This should be an informative and interesting program the Round Table looks to see all its friends at this November's meeting.

EDITOR'S VIEW

With some space remaining I offer this somewhat lighthearted story of "Things You Never Think About." Modern day Americans know nothing of the problems that our Mid-19th Century counterparts had in dealing with horses and mules. To the vast majority of modern horse owners the animal is a pet, a luxury kept for companionship and recreation.

To Americans of the Civil War era, horses, and their cantankerous cousins, the mules were a necessity. A recent edition of Civil War Times Illustrated sheds some light on the problem of keeping animals fit for use by the military.

It required 6,000 shoes at 14 or 16 ounces of iron per shoe, some 3 tons of shoe stock, to maintain a cavalry brigade with 1,000 horses weight that had to be carried and maintained by the cavalry brigade to be effective. With luck a shoe may have lasted 100 miles, but this rarely happened. On the average the army expected shoeing to occur every 4 weeks, but following a hard march, often all the horses of the cavalry brigade would require new iron. A good blacksmith could make 6 to 8 shoes per hour, so refitting a thousand cavalry animals required about 1,000 man-hours of "constant hammering."

Fortunately in the North shoes were mass produced, with some companies averaging 1 shoe per second, plus necessary nails. But the Confederacy never figured out the factor of mass production of the shoes, so they were always eager to capture Federal supplies of shoes, horses and mules, perhaps this was their method of mass production.

A brief story of interest, I hope, and certainly "Things You Never Think About."
Newsletter Editor---Tony Reilly

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 2004

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

The first comment we can say regarding our November meeting is the 65 members and guest attending had the opportunity to be close. Due to another program at the restaurant Moselem Springs had to utilize some of the space we normally had available to us. However, we got things going as President Dave Valuska requested Pat Christ give us an update on our membership renewal program and new member information. Pat advised we had 102 renewals as of our November meeting date plus one additional renewal that was "in the mail." Pat provided the names of the five new members; Ray Miller, James Bowman, Wayne Moser, William Burns and Doris Reaser. The Newsletter takes this opportunity to welcome back all old friends and members and extends a special welcome to our five new members and new friends.

Keeping things in the Christ family Dave called on our treasurer for his monthly report. Arlan stated a balance as of 10-12-04 of \$3,438.44, new income \$1,539.00, new expenses \$1,171.59 providing an 11-9-04 balance of \$3,805.85 this includes \$526.00 in our preservation fund.

Regarding next springs field trip two suggestions were presented by attending members. Both suggestions were for a western battlefield trip, the sites offered were Chattanooga and or Shiloh. This is still an open issue and recommendations for sites for a visit can be presented by any member. If you have one to suggest add it to a meeting reservation call or bring it up at a meeting you attend.

Rich Kennedy spoke on our December meeting program that was reviewed in the November Newsletter. This will be an open invitation to any and all members to recommend a book on the Civil War that you have found of special interest. Remember this is not a book review just your comments on a book you would like to recommend fellow members consider reading. Please join in member participation will enhance the evening program. If time permits President Valuska offered a discussion period of "after battle reviews" on battles of member interest.

Dave Fox spoke on our snow cancellation procedures. If the weather looks questionable on a meeting date due to snow listen to radio station WEEU 830AM for a snow cancellation of the meeting or call 610-683-1533 for an announcement report of a cancellation. This telephone number is effective thru December 2004. In January a new number will be provided for members to call. Stay tuned more to come!

Moselem Springs has requested additional time from us when we order our meals for our meetings. In the past our cutoff date was the Wednesday of the week before our Tuesday meeting date. Effective with our December 2004 meeting our cutoff date will be moved to the Monday of the week before our Tuesday meeting date. Please check our cutoff date in this newsletter under **December Meeting**. If you miss the cutoff date and plan to attend the meeting you can call Moselem Springs Restaurant with your order at

610-944-8213, however, we would like to avoid this so please try to call by our cutoff date. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Jack Gurney provided a second Civil War handgun for our review and interest. This weapon, also produced by Starr Arms Co. in New York, was a single action revolver designed as an improved and less costly weapon than the Starr double action revolver. This revolver was manufactured between 1863 and 1865 and the United States Government purchased some 30,000 of them. Jack noted the revolver was .44 Caliber with an 8 inch barrel and was a heavy handgun Jack suggested it was not as effective as the Double Action Starr revolver.

BOOK RAFFLE / PRESERVATION

Preservation chairman Tom Tate reported \$123.00 in raffle ticket sales at the November meeting. This will be added to our preservation fund giving us a total of \$649.00. For the benefit of our new members, and a reminder to our present membership, all raffle ticket money goes to our preservation fund. Due to donations of books by members we have not had to spend raffle money to purchase books for our raffle. All donations of books are greatly appreciated and the Round Table thanks contributing members.

Tom noted if we decide to make a preservation gift in the near future we may wish to consider a gift to Trevilian Station, scene of a great cavalry battle between forces of General Sheridan and General Wade Hampton in 1864. Civil War Preservation Trust is working to save some 200 acres at this battlefield location.

Tom reports information from Central Virginia preservation people that 140 acres of the first day's battle of Chancellorsville have been saved. This includes 55 acres that were originally zoned for commercial development. Tricord Homes, the developer, is going to forego development in this area but will be able to build houses on another 87 acres in the area. A protected area of 1,000 feet will extend inland from the highway no homes would be built in this protected area. Central Virginia Trust and CWPT are working to raise three million dollars to pay for this real estate.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM REVIEW

Our November program was a presentation by Robert and Sharon Werner. Robert dressed as a Union soldier spoke on the common soldier and Sharon followed with comments on the United States Sanitary Commission. Both speakers had available to them a number of items that the common soldier would use to enhance their presentation.

Mr. Werner opened his talk by stating the American Civil War produced some 630,000 deaths to military personnel and this figure exceeded the names of American servicemen listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. by eleven times. Civil War dead also exceeded the number of Americans killed on September 11, 2001, when added together every day for five years. He identified the Civil War common soldier as being more modern than their predecessors. They carried most of what they needed on their person and this made them more maneuverable and ready to fight at any time. He spoke of a number of items they had to carry, a "dog tent" known also as a shelter-half which actually was half of a tent that when combined with another soldier's shelter-half made for a two man tent. A knapsack used to carry an extra shirt, socks, under clothing, shaving and bathing items, a housewife kit that had needle and thread used to repair torn clothing. A haversack to carry food rations usually enough for three or four days. A

blanket was also a necessary item to be carried. These items were in addition to the weapons of war that all soldiers carried depending on their assignment such as rifle, bayonet and ammunition.

One of the big concerns for Civil War soldiers was access to water not only for drinking but also for cleaning and cooking. Our speaker noted four ways for the soldier to carry and keep food safe to eat they were to dry it, to smoke it, to salt it and to pickle it. Bad water and bad food contributed to dysentery, stomach problems, sickness and all too often death. Biscuits in the army have always received high marks for being less than biscuits we all would like them to have been. Mr. Werner noted Civil War biscuits helped create this image. Civil War biscuits were called "hard-tack" and occasionally "flour-tiles." A three-inch square cracker that required a hard bite they generally had to be soaked in something to make them edible. When improperly stored they gained small inhabitants that some soldiers felt added to their taste. No thank you! Mr. Werner concluded his comments with some words on battle wounds and their treatment and the care of the common soldier. His words led to the introduction of his wife who also was present in period costume.

Mrs. Werner spoke to us on the development of the United States Sanitary Commission. She opened her remarks by speaking of Doctor Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman physician in the United States, who led a group of 55 prominent white women who found the (WCRA) Women's Central Relief Association in New York City, an institute that trained female nurses for the war. At the same time early in 1861 a small group of Northern civilians developed an organization dedicated to providing medical care, supplies, and other comforts and necessities to soldiers in the field. On June 9, 1861 the United States Sanitary Commission had its beginning and by September of 1861 the WCRA and other local aid societies came under the organizational banner of the Sanitary Commission. During the next four years the USSC raised at least \$7 million and distributed supplies worth \$15 million. The USSC built and administered hospitals and soldiers' lodging houses, recruited nurses, doctors, and ambulance drivers. They provided blankets, shown to us by Mrs. Werner, stationery, delivered telegrams and letters, and helped soldiers apply for disability pensions. Although tens of thousands of women performed the bulk of the commissions work on the local levels the president of the USSC was Henry W. Bellows, a Unitarian minister and the treasurer was lawyer George Templeton Strong. These men administered the USSC with a policy of practical ideals and one that would pay its own way. Mrs. Werner noted the use of "community fairs" to raise money for the organizations benevolent projects. All told these many fairs, conducted throughout the Northern states, raised more than \$4 million and provided a significant percentage of the commission's budget. Sharon believed the commission was responsible for saving the lives of 250,000 men due to their efforts.

The United States Sanitary Commission was the forerunner of the American Red Cross founded in 1882 by Clara Barton. Yet it was probably better known as the most recognizable charitable organization devoted to the welfare of the soldiers and sailors who fought to save the Union.

The Round Table thanks our speakers Robert and Sharon Werner for their presentation on the Common Soldier and the United States Sanitary Commission.

DID YOU KNOW

Union Naval Ranks

On the eve of the Civil War the United States Navy managed with only a handful of officer ranks. The highest permanent officers were captains, below whom were commanders, a relatively new rank, lieutenants commanding, and lieutenants. In a formal sense that was it. To be sure there were also midshipmen. "Middies" were sort of officers in training. Generally young men fifteen years old were not uncommon and even ten years old not unheard of. They served aboard ship under instruction from the captain and other authorized personnel such as chaplains and on occasion mathematic professors. Midshipmen though young and untrained often exercised a great deal of authority.

There was also the honorary rank of "commodore," usually conferred on a senior captain when in command of a squadron. By 1857 the status of some commodores was more or less regularized by the institution of "flag officer." This was a means of insuring that senior American naval officers had pecking rights more or less on a par with those of their foreign peers. The use of "commodore" continued, however, as a courtesy title for a captain commanding a squadron. With a limited promotion ladder it was not unusual for a man to spend many years in the same rank or grade.

Shortly after the creation of the Naval Academy in 1845, a new term entered use, "passed midshipman." This was used for a young man who had completed the prescribed course at the academy, and graduated to the fleet, but for whom there was no opening available for promotion to lieutenant. After gaining experience a passed midshipman were at times designated as "master," giving him the authority to command ships, a title also sometimes used for a merchant marine officer brought into naval service.

With the coming of the Civil War the modern naval command system evolved. Vice Admiral was established 12-21-1864, and first conferred on David G. Farragut. Rear Admiral established 7-16-1862 also conferred on Farragut. Commodore established 1-16-1862, replacing the earlier "flag officer," that had itself replaced the informal use of commodore in 1857. Next in line would be a Captain, then a Commander, Lieutenant Commander was established on 6-16-1862 replacing Lieutenant Commanding. Then came Lieutenant, then Master, Ensign formally instituted on 7-16-1862, in place of Passed Midshipman. Last was Midshipman not an officer in grade, but carrying some authority when assigned to active duty.

After the Civil War changes in the rank structure continued. The rank of Admiral was created, again for Farragut in 1866, while Master was transformed into "Lieutenant Junior Grade" in 1883. Once again the rank or title of "Passed Midshipman" returned to designate Annapolis graduates for whom there was no opening available on the list of Ensigns. In 1899 commodore was removed as a rank and an officer holding that rank moved up to Rear Admiral (lower half). Commodore, however, did not go away it was still used as a courtesy title for captains commanding squadrons, and was still also occasionally awarded to senior captains upon retention on duty after normal retirement up to the 1940's.

If this was a bit confusing to read it was confusing to type, however, it tells a quick story of Union Naval Ranks from back when up to present times.

CIVIL WAR USAGE

Accoutrements---This term was almost always used in the plural. It referred to the equipment (not including clothing) carried by a uniformed soldier, sailor or marine.

Accoutrements varied from one service to another but incorporated such items as belt, cap box, cartridge box, musket or rifle, scabbard and sword. A man's canteen, haversack and knapsack were not considered accoutrements.

Carpet Soldier---A contemptuous reference to state or militia soldiers who avoided front-line military service.

Impact Fuse---Ordinary fuses were lighted before a projectile was fired. Impact fuses, however, were designed to explode when the shell struck its target.

Muzzle Velocity---A measure of the speed at which a bullet, ball, or shell left the muzzle of the weapon from which it was fired.

Ramrod---A slender metal or hardwood shaft used to ram a charge into the base of the bore of a muzzle loading musket or rifle.

DECEMBER QUIZ

Q.1 This Federal Brigadier General was a former congressman, a man of political influence who was vain and bombastic and had presidential ambitions. He described himself as "born a warrior." His commanding officer considered him incompetent and insubordinate and a pain in his side. Unfortunately he had no way of getting rid of him because of his political connections. Can you identify this man?

Q.2 Following are five Civil War nicknames that apply to five general officers in the Civil War, Bull Head, Prince John, Slow Trot, Virginia Creeper and Wooden Head. Identify these five general officers with the flattering nicknames?

Q.3 Though he was viewed by his contemporaries as a commander of questionable value this Federal officer scored a logistical triumph without equal. His accomplishment was not matched until World War I. Name this Federal officer and his accomplishment?

DECEMBER MEETING

Our December meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday December 14, 2004**. Meeting time is 6:30PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Members are requested to make dinner reservations by our **new** cutoff date **Monday December 6**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533** if you leave a message please speak clearly leaving your name and dinner selection. Dinner selections for the December meeting include **Ham Steak, Baked Ziti and Baked Haddock**. Our dinner price is \$16.00. Please keep in mind the above change in our cutoff date for dinner reservations, thank you.

Our December program will be our book reviews of your favorite Civil War books you have read. Join in with your comments and views of a book or books you liked. Our December meeting is open to period costume if you so desire.

EDITOR'S VIEW

In a continuing effort to make the Newsletter interesting I plan to introduce a new limited feature. This will not be a narrative of any length, but a few one liners of items of interest that happen during the years of the Civil War. The subject material will vary month to month and will touch on such items as international events, non-war firsts in America, notable books, ages of notable people, wartime prices, what generals did after the war and any other items I can find. I may locate them anywhere in the Newsletter so be alert for these bits of trivia. To give you an idea of this feature I provide the following two examples.

In 1864 Jules Verne published "A Journey to the Center of the Earth."

General Jubal Early had a legal practice after the war in Lynchburg, Virginia
Tony Reilly---Newsletter Editor

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

January 2005

The January meeting of the First Defenders will be held on **Tuesday, January 11, at 6:30 PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs.** Members are requested to make dinner reservations before our **new** cutoff date, **Monday, January 3.** The number to call for reservations, this month, is **(610) 683-4384.** Please speak slowly and clearly when you leave your name and reservation order. Dinner selections for the January meeting include **Quakertown Roast, Grilled Salmon, and Baked Manicotti.** Our dinner price is **\$16.** Please note the new cut off date and the new phone number, for this month. **When you place your order give us your suggestions for a summer fieldtrip.** Some possible suggestions are one-day trips to Antietam, Harpers Ferry, or Brandy Station.

January's speaker will be John David Hoptak, the author of ***First in Defense of the Union: The Civil War History of the First Defenders.*** John's talk will be entitled, "The Union's Forgotten First Defenders." He will speak not only of their history in the war, but also how they are remembered both locally and at a national level. Unfortunately John is all out of copies of his book so he will be unable to sell them. They are currently available only through the internet at such places as **Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com** for **\$15.50.** I'm sure John will be happy to sign any member's book.

***SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE
BOARD OF THE FIRST DEFENDERS. SEE
YOU IN 2005!!!***

The Medical Aspects Of The Civil War



MORE AMERICANS DIED IN THE CIVIL WAR THAN THE COMBINED TOTAL OF THE NATION'S DEAD IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, THE WAR OF 1812, THE MEXICAN WAR, THE INDIAN WARS, THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR, WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II AND THE KOREAN WAR.

CASUALTIES ADDED IN THE VIETNAM WAR FINALLY BROUGHT THE GRAND TOTAL ABOVE THE CASUALTIES SUFFERED IN THE CIVIL WAR.

THE CIVIL WAR LOSSES WERE BORNE BY A NATION WITH A POPULATION OF ONLY 35 MILLION PEOPLE.

MEN IN SERVICE

UNION 2,900,000 CONFEDERATE 1,350,000

DEATHS

	UNION	CONFEDERATE	TOTAL
BATTLE	110,000	95,000	205,000
DISEASE	225,000	165,000	390,000
ACCIDENTS	25,000	25,000 (est)	50,000

☞ GUNSHOT WOUNDS exceeded saber and bayonet wounds by a ratio of 250 to one.

☞ BATTLEFIELD FIRST AID was left to musicians or special litter corps. Combat troops were ordered to leave their wounded comrades where they fell and continue the battle; to disobey could bring severe punishment.

☞ DEATH RATE in prisoner of war stockades exceeded the death rate in hospitals.

☞ ANESTHETICS — either chloroform or ether — were used routinely in surgical procedures, but there was no concept of transmission of disease by germs; instruments were simply wiped off and used again. Most wounds became infected, resulting in death.

☞ MEDICINES sometimes caused more harm than good. Opium was widely used as a pain killer and to control diarrhea. Highly toxic mercury compounds were used to cleanse wounds and were given as purgatives. Opium administration was so prevalent that many patients became addicted. This addiction was so commonplace that for years after the war it was known as the "soldier's disease." Bleeding and cauterization were common practices and undoubtedly contributed to the high death rates.

☞ MEDICAL SUPPLIES were obtained by medical purveyors utilized by both armies. After the Union navy blockaded Southern ports and declared medical supplies to be contraband of war, the South's supply of essential medicines, such as quinine for fighting malaria, was greatly reduced. Medicinal home remedies, often derived from native plants, were relied upon.

☞ WOMEN were active in the creation of hospitals and in the formation of civilian societies to provide funds for medical work. The Catholic Sisters of Charity were the only organized and trained female nurses when the war began. They, and other women volunteers, delivered some of the most effective treatment that soldiers received in the rear-area hospitals. Field hospitals, set up near the scene of action, were manned by medical officers and soldiers trained as hospital stewards. Women generally did not go onto the field of battle as nurses or hospital attendants.

☞ STATUS OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL changed during the Civil War. It was the first war in history in which medical personnel and wounded were treated as non-combatants. This set a precedent later adopted by the League of Nations.



THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 2005

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

The First Defenders welcomed 49 members to our January meeting. Poor weather caused a number of cancellations by some members or our attendance would have been greater. Mike Gabriel kicked off our meeting with a brief business report. Mike noted we would move the meeting along to allow members attending the opportunity to get an earlier than normal start on their trip home due to the weather.

Our main business item was to discuss a choice of battlefield tours for our annual June field trip. Three locations seemed to have been the main choices of the members, Antietam, South Mountain and Harper's Ferry. A vote to visit Brandy Station, scene of the war's largest cavalry action was also noted. After a brief discussion members present selected Antietam it was also suggested that either South Mountain or Harper's Ferry be added to the trip. It was the view of the members that Brandy Station would not provide a full trip if that site was the only visit made on the trip. We can probably make it part of a future trip in that area. The trip would be a two day visit and would be scheduled for June. Mike requested our tour specialist Rich Kennedy to look into the particulars for this trip and report back to the Round Table as soon as possible.

Arlan Christ provided this treasurer's report present balance as of 1-11-05 \$3,999.94, new income \$737.00, new expenses \$1,193.97 providing a new balance of \$ 3,542.97. Our preservation fund remains at \$747.00. Arlan and Mike both commented on our recent \$400.00 gift in support of the 140 acres set aside for preservation at Chancellorsville. This gift money was taken from our general fund not from our preservation fund.

The cost to build the famous Confederate raider C.S.S. Alabama in dollars was \$250,305.44. On August 24, 1862 Commander Raphael Semmes assumed command of this cruiser.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Jack Gurney provided a New Remington Model Army Revolver, a weapon Jack noted in his comments as a "good strong revolver." This piece was made between 1863 and 1875 with some 122,000 revolvers produced. The weapon was a 44 caliber six shot with an eight inch octagon barrel and weighed two pounds and twelve ounces. Jack pointed out to the members a new feature on this weapon that allowed a quick change in the cylinder that held the cartridges. This made for simpler use in changing an empty cylinder to a new unit and thus made the weapon available to provide greater firepower in a shorter time frame. As always our thanks to Jack for his interesting and good work for the Round Table.

BOOK RAFFLE/PRESERVATION

As those in attendance were aware Tom Tate was unable to make the meeting due to the weather and we did not have a book raffle at this meeting. Hopefully at our February meeting we can all put forth an extra effort in purchasing raffle tickets to help make up

for some of the dollars we lost in January. This will help our preservation efforts and the Round Table will be very appreciative.

In a note I received from Tom he asked that I advise the members that with our \$400.00 preservation gift to Chancellorsville we as a Round Table have passed the \$9,000.00 mark in our total contributions to battlefield preservation. Since many of our donations were paired up with matching funds our support for preservation is impressive. Tom also noted in his memo to me that we raised \$98.00 in raffle tickets at our December meeting, again our present fund is \$747.00. As preservation chairman Tom thanks the membership for their fine cooperation in this most important program.

JANUARY PROGRAM REVIEW

Our January speaker was John Hoptak who made his second visit to the Round Table. John's topic was The First Defenders and his presentation provided information on the Pennsylvania militia units that organized shortly after Fort Sumter and made their way to Washington to be the first volunteer units to arrive in the capitol to provide protection to the city, its residents, government leaders and government office buildings. The First Defenders comprised five companies of troops from Lehigh, Berks, Schuylkill and Mifflin Counties. John noted these five companies were made up by 475 men from these areas. He spoke of their organizing and then moving to Harrisburg and from there on to Washington. He identified their good feelings in coming to the aid of the country and of the difficulties they encountered upon arriving in Baltimore. Due to a need to change trains in this city they had to parade through the city streets and the parade turned into a brawl in their attempt to get to a different train station. Arriving in Washington on April 18, 1861 they could offer little in the way as "defenders." They carried no accoutrements of military necessity and were armed with useless flintlock weapons. However, they were greatly welcomed by the city and the next day they were provided with percussion rifled muskets.

While The First Defenders fame probably exceeded their initial military record they did indeed provide a contribution to the war with their presence in Washington. Mr. Hoptak spoke of some of the men who served in these units in particular a man from Allentown named Ignatz Gresser a shoemaker who received the Medal of Honor during action at Antietam. Gresser did not receive the honor until 33 years after the battle. John stated there were other Civil War units from the counties who had provided The First Defenders, more deserving of a central place in the history of these counties, however it was a tribute to the men of The First Defender militia units to be first on the scene. These units spent three months in Washington as 90 day enlistments most of the men volunteered, about 90% of them, to reenlist and were assigned to other existing Pennsylvania Regiments. I asked Mr. Hoptak how the name First Defenders was given to these units he indicated it was part of a poem written about these men and their units shortly after their arrival in Washington.

It was John's opinion that The First Defenders have not been much remembered in the history of the Civil War perhaps our Round Table carrying the First Defender name will provide a quite tribute and honor to those men and the service they provided to our country so many years past. Our thanks to John for visiting with us a second time and for his presentation on "The First Defenders."

Just a brief comment on our December program a discussion of books members read and made comment on to attending members. We had about seven members presenting

books they recommended and provided interesting views of why the books were recommended. As it turned out it was an interesting evening and some fine books were suggested as good reading on the Civil War. If anyone is curious about the books recommended see me I have a list of them.

In 1861 Mary Todd Lincoln was 43 years old, Roger Taney, Supreme Court Justice was 84 and Varina Howell Davis, wife of the Confederate president was 35.

DID YOU KNOW

The Common Soldier of the American Civil War

Who was the common soldier of the American Civil War? Here's what the statistics tell us. About 2.75 million soldiers fought in the Civil War, two million for the North and 750,000 for the South. These numbers are according to historian Bell I. Wiley. As we are all aware numbers in the Civil War vary greatly depending on who presents them for this narrative we will use Mr. Wiley's figures. Mr. Wiley pioneered the study of the Civil War common soldier. The average Yank or Reb was white and native-born, a farmer, protestant, single, between 18 and 39 years of age. He stood about 5 feet 8 inches tall and he weighed 143 pounds. Most soldiers were of an average age of 25 to 26 years old.

The majority of soldiers North and South had been farmers before the war. Union and Southern rosters contained references to more than 300 different careers, including accountants, surveyors, locksmiths, teachers, carpenters, shoemakers, blacksmiths, painters, teamsters and mechanics. While the largest majority of Civil War soldiers were native born a great number of newcomers to the country also volunteered to serve and fight, especially in the North. Nearly one quarter, some 500,000, of the Union's soldiers were immigrants, including 200,000 Germans; 150,000 Irish; 45,000 English; 15,000 Canadians and lesser numbers of French, Norwegians, Italians, Mexicans and Poles. Exact figures for the South are questionable, but tens of thousands of Irish, Germans, British, French and others entered the Confederate ranks. Truly a war of brother against brother. African-American soldiers made up roughly ten percent of the Union Army about 179,000 and some 37,000 lost their lives. In March of 1865, the Confederate congress authorized the army to recruit 300,000 black troops. Some units were raised, but it was too late for them to make a difference. Whether they would have been effective soldiers in the Confederate service is arguable.

In the Union army 80% of the men were in the infantry, 14% in the cavalry and 6% in the artillery. Confederate service had 75% in the infantry, 20% in the cavalry and 5% in the artillery. Of every 1,000 Federals, 112 were casualties, 11.2%. Of every 1,000 Confederates, 150 were casualties, 15%. A Yankee stood a 1 in 8 chance of dying due to illness and a 1 in 18 chance of dying in battle. A Rebel faced a 1 in 5 chance in illness and a 1 in 8 chance in battle. About 360,000 Yankees died, 110,000 in battle and 225,000 of disease. The South lost 258,000 men, 94,000 in battle and 164,000 to disease. Roughly 211,000 Union soldiers were captured and some 30,000 died in captivity. 214,000 Confederates were captured and 26,000 died in prison. Combining these totals tells the terrible story of the cost of this war to the common soldier, the man in the trenches.

Soldiers on both side received little pay to put their lives on the line about \$11 to \$13 dollars per month as privates. When not marching or fighting boredom was always a problem. Singing, letter writing, drinking and gambling were some of the ways they passed their time. Reading was also a way to relieve boredom newspapers, periodicals and so called dime novels were the most popular reading choices.

Both armies claimed to be fighting with God's blessing and God was on their side. Religion played a big part in the lives on many soldiers on both sides. Most soldiers were of Christian faiths, though 7,000 Jewish men fought for the Union and 3,000 for the South. Some 600 Jewish soldiers died in the war. It could be stated that God was on the side of all men regardless of country or religion. It is probable that in battle God was generally on the side with the biggest battalions and the best commanded troops. This was probably the view of the side that won a particular battle.

The statistics addressed here in numbers are rounded for ease of digestion, they do provide a reasonable offering of facts for this article. In a later issue of "Did You Know" we will address the issue of "Why Men Fought." That story may tell us a little more about the Common Soldier of the American Civil War.

CIVIL WAR USAGE

Handsome---Having a pleasing appearance and used in regard to women as well as men. Usage suggest that handsome was an intermediate term between pretty and beautiful.

Carpetbagger---A Northern political or economic adventurer who went to the South during the post war reconstruction period (1865-1870). The reference was to a carryall made of carpet materials.

To Spike---To disable an artillery piece so as to preclude its use by the enemy. Several methods sufficed: a nail or spike could be driven through the vent hole, a shot could be wedged in the bore, ammunition could be caused to explode in the bore, two weapons could be fired at one another- muzzle to muzzle, or the trunnions could be broken or shattered by firing an overload charge at an excessive elevation.

Trunnion---Two short cylinders that projected from opposite sides of a gunbarrel, near its center of gravity, which were used to attach the barrel to a carriage.

Assembly---A signal from a drum or bugle calling every man in a post or command to come together at a designated central spot.

On July 13, 1861 the first Confederate general officer was killed. Robert S. Garnett was killed near Corrick's Ford, Virginia.

FEBRUARY QUIZ

Q.1 Following the Civil War all eleven Confederate States eventually were readmitted to the Union. Name the first three states readmitted?

Q.2 Whenever the Union and Confederate lines stabilized in close proximity, informal "truces" would be arranged by opposing forces and within a short time, items would start to be exchanged by the men on both sides. Can you name any of the five most popular items traded between the lines?

Q.3 On November 14, 1864 General William T. Sherman began his famous March to the Sea. On November 22, 1864 the only pitched battle of this march took place. Can you name this battle?

FEBRUARY MEETING

Our February meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday February 8, 2005**. Meeting time is 6:30PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Members are requested to make dinner reservations by the cutoff date of **Monday January 31, 2005**. The number to call for reservations this month is **610-683-4384**. This reservation number is Mike Gabriel's office number he request you make your reservation calls after **5PM** to leave the number available for business calls during the day. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter please bear with us until we can establish a permanent reservation number. When leaving

a message please speak clearly providing your dinner selection and your name. Dinner selections for this February meeting include **Shepherd's Pie, Baked Ziti and Baked Haddock**. Our dinner price is \$16.00. Please keep in mind the change in our cutoff date for reservations from Wednesday to Monday. The Round Table thanks members for helping us with our reservation issues at this time. Things will get better!!!!

Our February program will be presented by Mr. Larry Sokolowski who will speak on Civil War Medicine. Our program chairman Rich Kennedy mentioned that our speaker would do an actual amputation on the spot during his presentation, if we could have a volunteer or volunteers. Anyone interested should wear a short sleeve shirt. Anyway, moving right along, hopefully we will have better luck with the weather and we can have a good turnout for our February meeting.

During the Civil War there were 25 Confederate Brigadier-Generals, 5 Major-Generals and 1 Lieutenant-General captured.

EDITOR'S VIEWS

I offer these comments as a reminder to our veteran members and to our new members. The features in the newsletter, such as program and trip reviews and "Did You Know" are not written in great depth due to space and newsletter cost considerations. I am hopeful the reviews provide some information to members who were unable to attend a meeting or participate in a field trip to keep you informed of our speaker presentations and trip activities. "Did You Know" are brief narratives on a variety of subjects of, I hope, interest.

Civil War Usage was introduced two years ago in February and I repeat my introduction of this feature here. While a great deal of the language used by the generation that fought the American Civil War remains with us a great deal has also changed, with much that had meaning to our forefathers not having the same meaning today to us. Other language of that time has been lost or became obscure. In addition as we read and study the Civil War there are many terms that may not be familiar to all or some of us. These terms or language can have an important bearing on what we read and at times what we hear in presentations. Hopefully the words and language we provide in the newsletter will be a helpful tool to all and from time to time provide an item of information to help clarify one of those, and your, questions on Civil War Usage.

In this issue of the Newsletter you, hopefully, have read the "bits of trivia" scattered about the letter. We will try this for a few months if I don't get any negative feedback we'll continue with this limited feature until we run out of information or I run out of time.

I think our quiz speaks for itself and needs no explanation. This is just an update on the present makeup of your Newsletter. I hope we provide a reasonably decent Newsletter, however I'm always open to suggestions if you have one let me know and we can discuss it. Look forward to seeing everyone in February.

Tony Reilly
610-921-3131

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

MARCH 2005

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Attendance at our February meeting was 53 members and guest. President Dave Valuska requested a treasurer's report from Arlan Christ. Arlan reported we had a treasury balance on January 11, 2005 of \$3,542.97, new income \$831.00, new expenses \$949.83 providing a new balance of \$3,424.14 as of February 8, 2005. \$747.00 of our balance is committed to preservation.

Dave then requested a report from Rich Kennedy on our spring field trip. Rich advised the members our field trip dates will be June 11 & 12, 2005. Rich plans a trip to the Antietam area to select an appropriate hotel and dinning location, he hopes to be able to provide that information in March or April if possible. Stay tuned more to come!

Dave also commented on membership interest regarding preservation, trip choices and any other items members may wish to address at a meeting. Don't be shy let your views be known the Round Table belongs to all members.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Jack Gurney's monthly contribution for February was an 1860 Colt Army Revolver Six Shot .44 caliber percussion weapon with an eight inch barrel. Some 200,500 units of this weapon were manufactured between 1860 and 1873 in Hartford, Connecticut. Colt delivered 127,156 to the United States Government for use in the Civil War. Samuel Colt was the inventor of this weapon along with many other type weapons. Colt's Hartford Manufacturing Plant was the largest privately owned armory in the world. In addition to the weapons delivered to the United States Government many soldiers probably purchased their own Colt .44 for their personal use. As always our thanks to Jack.

BOOK RAFFLE/PRESERVATION

Tom Tate extends his appreciation to the members for a generous February in ticket purchases and book donations. Members bought 131 tickets and contributed seven books for future raffles. Adding the \$131.00 in ticket purchases brings our preservation fund to \$878.00. With three meetings remaining in this campaign we should be over the \$1,000.00 mark by the end of the campaign. Keep in mind the value of book donations helps in keeping expenses down as we do not have to purchase books from our general fund monies. Thanks to all for your generosity.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM REVIEW

Our February program was on Civil War Surgery, our speaker, in military costume was Major Larry Sokowloski representing a Civil War Assistant Surgeon. Larry was assisted in his presentation by Kenneth Strobe also in costume representing a hospital steward. Our speakers provided information on Civil War doctors, what they faced on the battlefield, steps to surgery and some comments on surgical procedures.

At best doctors in the Civil War era had two years of classes, a basic and standard set of lectures the first year and the same set of lectures the second year. Sitting through the two years resulted in graduation as a doctor. The more financially supported students added two additional years to their training that included clinical and laboratory work. More experienced physicians had the good fortune of an apprenticeship with a mentoring doctor. Our speaker noted this training did not prepare them for what they would face on the battlefield. Many doctors received their introduction to surgery on the battlefield. With only two years of schooling doctors did not specialize in a particular field of surgery. With little or no training in the types of wounds received on the battlefield for most of these surgeons it was "on the job training." Unfortunately until they learned the trade people died.

Prior to the war there were about 10,000 doctors in the North and 4,000 in the South. Only 500 Northern doctors had performed surgery and only 27 in the South. Of course not all of these doctors served in military units. Our speaker noted when the war started there were 30 surgeons and 83 assistant surgeons in the military service and some of these went with the Confederacy. The difference between a surgeon and an assistant surgeon was experience and rank. Generally a surgeon's rank was that of a major and an assistant surgeons rank was a captain.

During a battle an aide station would be set up some fifty yards behind a battle line the hospital steward went to the battlefield to locate the wounded and mark their location with a colored sash and provide some immediate help if possible and prepare the wounded man to be moved to the aide station. Field hospitals were located some five miles behind the battlefield and hopefully out of artillery range. Hospital assistants also set up work-stations and guarded hospital and medical supplies, they also did pharmacy work. We can understand these men were very valuable but probably did not receive a great deal of credit for there work.

Major Sokowlowski stated most surgical work was done during daylight hours because of the light, 95% of surgeries were performed under anesthesia using either ether or chloroform. Because of a lack of knowledge regarding infections a field surgical procedure was not always a successful piece of work. There was no such thing as antiseptic surgery during the war. The field hospital was at times regarded as hell on earth. Amputations were the common operation of the war. On the battlefield a crude system of triage was performed. This was the allocation of attention to a wounded soldier based on a priority and the best chance of saving that soldier over others who were presumed to have less chance of surviving due to the type of their wound. Men with wounds to the head, belly or chest were left to one side because they most likely would die. While cruel and heartless it allowed surgeons to give prompt attention to those who could be saved. In many cases amputations despite there horror saved lives.

Our speaker defined a simple procedure for bullet wounds first determine if the bullet exited the body or lodged in it. If no exit wound probe for a bullet with finger or a bullet probe, when found extract the bullet. Last determine if body part can be saved or must surgery remove the damaged part. Larry identified two types of amputations, circular and or flap, he also stated cutting thru bone caused problems because of pieces of bone chipping during the cutting procedure. It took an average of 12 to 15 minutes per amputation and there were 55,000 documented amputations during the war. How many other undocumented amputations God only knew.

The minie ball was the leading cause of wounds this projectile moved a long distance at a low velocity and when it hit bone it expanded and destroyed bone and tissue beyond hope of repair. It also carried pieces of clothing and equipment with it into the body that caused problems with infections.

Civil War surgery has been pronounced as butchery and the Civil War doctor as heartless or some other derisive term. In truth most of these men labored faithfully and in many cases with great success. They certainly labored under the most difficult of situations and times. I am certain this program was well received because of the many questions presented to the speakers they did a fine job. The First Defenders extends a sincere thank to both Larry Sokowloski and Kenneth Strobe for visiting with us and presenting a fine program.

In 1864 the first coin to use "In God We Trust" was minted and in 1865 the first potato chip was introduced for commercial consumption.

In 1861 General Winfield Scott was 75 years old and General George A. Custer was 22 years old.

DID YOU KNOW

HISTORY IN THE ROUND

We are all familiar with the painting of the Battle of Gettysburg on display in the Cyclorama Building at Gettysburg National Military Park. When General John Gibbon first glimpsed this circular painting in Chicago in 1884 he stated to a fellow Civil War veteran that it was "a sight to see before you die." Gibbon was in awe by the painting's three-dimensional appearance, which presents viewers to "look out upon the field of Gettysburg," were he had held the center of the Union line during the climactic Pickett's Charge.

Today, visitors at Gettysburg can view a second version of the cyclorama, done by the same artist a year after the first painting was completed in 1883. The painting is 359 feet long and 27 feet high, and is a duplicate version of the one General Gibbon viewed in 1884. The 121 year old painting is now undergoing a \$9 million restoration to save the peeling paint and decaying canvas on its 27 panels and to re-create the illusion that Gibbon found so interesting. When restoration, one of the largest and costliest art conservation projects in United States history, is completed in 2007 the painting will be the centerpiece of a new visitor center in Gettysburg.

Cycloramas were popular in the 19th century in major cities in the United States and Europe. "As an art form, the cyclorama painting is extremely rare," said Scott Hartwig, supervisory historian at Gettysburg National Military Park, "it gives viewers an impression of a historical event as if you had been there." Civil War battles were a common theme for cycloramas. Hartwig said that as many as six different battles were painted, but only Pickett's Charge on July 3, 1863, was the subject of four separate cyclorama paintings. Because of the cost and enormous labor involved, few cycloramas were painted at the time. The cyclorama painting that General Gibbon viewed is presently in storage at Wake Forest University in North Carolina and is up for sale. The painting at Gettysburg and the one now in storage at Wake Forest were designed by Paul Philippoteaux, the French artist, the Gettysburg painting took him and 20 other artist two years to complete.

When all 27 panels of the second painting were finished in 1884 the work was unveiled in a cyclorama building in Boston. In 1891, the painting was moved to

Philadelphia's cyclorama building at Broad and Cherry Streets. In the early 1900's, cycloramas lost their appeal and the Gettysburg painting was rolled up and tossed into storage back in Boston. In 1910 a department store, Hahne & Co., from Newark, New Jersey bought it and put it on display in the store's windows. The rough treatment of the cyclorama painting was due to the painting not being thought of as art, but rather as entertainment, so stated Scott Hartwig.

In 1913 the painting was moved to Gettysburg for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Its first 60 years in Gettysburg the painting was exhibited in temporary quarters with no climate control. Its current home was built in 1962. Hartwig said the last time the painting was properly displayed was during its Philadelphia Tour in the 1890's. By late 2007, for the first time in more than a century, visitors will be able to see the painting as General Gibbon saw it in 1884, with its three-dimensional effect restored. Upon completion of the restoration the painting will be the centerpiece of a new \$95 million visitor center for the National Park, which is scheduled to open a half-mile away from the center's current location. The restoration will include cleaning off more than a century of grime and fire and water damage. Reversing botched restoration attempts, returning missing swath of sky and other lost features in the painting. When completed and properly displayed in its new home the painting will be truly three-dimensional end to end with no definable end.

The Battle of Gettysburg will remain on display until November in the present Cyclorama Building at the National Park at 97 Taneytown Road in Gettysburg. Hopefully the value and interpretation the painting will offer will provide a great attraction to all who will visit the new National Park Visitor Center when completed in 2007.

CIVIL WAR USAGE

HOUSEWIFE---Slang for a soldier's kit containing the essentials needed to mend uniforms and other clothing. At first regarded as a luxury the little sewing kit came to be regarded as essential due to the fact the majority of fighting men mended their own garments with needles, thread and buttons from their housewife kits.

COMPLEMENT---The body of officers and men who constitute a ship's personnel. Such as "Ships Complement."

TO HAUL OFF---To retreat quickly or a withdrawal.

PEST HOUSE---Any holding area used to isolate soldiers or civilians believed to have contagious diseases.

TO PLANT THE FLAG---To place one's banner inside an enemy line or position. Since flags marked the position of a Company or Regiment, such an achievement indicated the successful occupation of the enemy's works.

After the war Nathan Bedford Forrest returned to farming and Henry Slocum became an attorney in Brooklyn, New York.

Of a total of 25,382 Union deaths unrelated to the war 520 were by murder and 391 by suicide.

MARCH QUIZ

Q.1 Following the assassination of President Lincoln eight conspirators were captured and all eight received a military trial. Four of them, Mary Surratt, David Herold, Lewis Paine and George Atzerodt received a factor in their sentence different from the remaining four. Identify this factor in their sentences?

Q.2 This battle was the only major and largest fight in the state of Florida during the Civil War. The battle was known by two names can you identify either or both of the battle's names?

Q.3 The historian Bruce Catton once pointed out that "just twice in all the war was a major Confederate Army driven away from a prepared position in complete route." Both times the same Union commander directed the routing blow. Can you identify the two battles and the Union commanding officer in these battles?

MARCH MEETING

Our March meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday March 8, 2005**. Meeting time is 6:30PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Members are requested to make dinner reservations by the cutoff date of **Monday February 28, 2005**. The number to call for reservations this month is **610-683-4384**. Please make your reservation calls after **5PM**, when leaving a message please speak clearly providing your dinner selection and your name. Dinner selections for the March meeting are **Ham Steak, Grilled Salmon and Pot Pie**. Our dinner price is \$16.00.

Perhaps the most depressing, and certainly one of the more controversial, topics of the American Civil War is the story of military prisons and the treatment of prisoners of the war. Our March program will be a presentation by fellow Round Table member Ed Ewing who will speak on this subject. Mr. Ewing will also present a list of the worst military prisons of the war. This should be an interesting presentation on a subject that has been a controversy in all wars. Let's have a fine turnout for our March meeting hope to see you there.

EDITORS NOTES

With a bit of space remaining I offer this item. No one knows how many men in blue and gray served as file closers during 1861-1865. With the conflict nearly over, Robert E. Lee directed that the Army of Northern Virginia should use one file-closer for every ten men in the ranks, but that ratio probably was not standard. While file-closers were essential to the operations of both Federal and Confederate forces they are mentioned only seventeen times in the "Official Records."

A conspiracy of silence may stem from the duties that were assigned to file-closers. Often keeping "two paces behind the rear rank of their squads with loaded guns and fixed bayonets," they were under orders to shoot to kill if any soldier straggled or tried to run to safety. Lee told his subordinates, "It will be enjoined upon file-closers that they shall make the evasion of duty more dangerous than its performance."

In December 1862, a Union General James G. Blunt, at Prairie Grove, Arkansas, noted that a file-closer selected for this special duty should put plunderers and stragglers to death "upon the spot." Long after the shooting stopped, former confederate officer D. B. Easley ventured to guess that around six hundred men who took part in Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg did so only because file-closers ran alongside them with drawn pistols.

I would think being selected to be a file-closer was not something to look forward to and I wonder who kept the file-closer from running. These men must have been very popular with their fellow soldiers. What's that you said? I don't think so either!

Tony Reilly
Newsletter Editor---610-921-3131

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

MARCH 2005

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this month's newsletter will be abbreviated. I know how much you all look forward to reading the meeting reviews, quizzes, and other features. Hopefully, these will return in the next issue or two. Thank you for your understanding.

Mike Gabriel

MARCH MEETING

Our March meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 14**, at 6:30 PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Members are requested to make dinner reservations by our cutoff date of **MONDAY, MARCH 6** (Alamo Day). **Please call 610-683-4384 for reservations and call after 5:00 PM.** The March menu includes the following choices: **Grilled Marinated Chicken Romano, Broiled Haddock, and Grilled Boneless Pork Loin with Pineapple Sauce.**

The March speaker is **Patrick Fairbairn**, who will be portraying **Rufus Ingalls**, the Union Army quartermaster. He will be in costume, as will his wife. Many of you will remember that Pat spoke to our round table about a year and a half ago, when he portrayed the abolitionist newspaper editor, William Lloyd Garrison. It should be a great program, and we hope to see you there.

GETTYSBURG FIELD TRIP

Included in this newsletter is the registration form for the June 10, 2006 field trip to Gettysburg. We will be taking approximately 50 people, first come-first serve. If you want to attend, please return the registration material as soon as possible.

FIRST DEFENDER POLO SHIRTS AND HATS

We have a number of First Defender polo shirts and hats from previous years. The current inventory includes: three wine [burgundy] with a navy-blue collar (2 Large and 1 Extra-Large); six navy-blue with wine collars (all Mediums); and 23 navy-blue baseball hats, with the First Defender logo. These will be on sale at the March meeting. The shirts are \$25 each and the hats \$8. Both are great, especially if you're planning to go on the field trip to Gettysburg.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

APRIL 2005

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Our March meeting was attended by 54 members and guest. This was a nice turnout when we consider the threat of poor weather and the fact of very cold weather. Rich Kennedy opened our meeting with some information on our June 11-12 field trip. We can look forward to a guide for this trip and we will visit three sites, Antietam Battlefield, South Mountain Battlefields and Harper's Ferry. The probable schedule will take us to Antietam and South Mountain on Saturday and to Harper's Ferry on Sunday. Rich is working on completing arrangements for our overnight stay and dinner accommodations. We hope to have this information available to attach to this newsletter. Because of a time factor in getting to Antietam as soon as we can we will have only one pickup location and that will be at Kutztown. Stay tuned more details to come.

Arlan Christ provided his treasurer's report. As of 2-8-05 we have a balance of \$3,424.14, new income \$979.00, new expenses \$1,071.29, providing a new balance of \$3,331.85 and a preservation fund of \$878.00 as of 3-8-05.

Tom Tate suggested a preservation gift to Civil War Preservation Trust to help purchase land at Harper's Ferry. Tom recommended a gift of \$500.00 that was approved by the members present. The land to be purchased is 38 acres located on School House Ridge sited on U.S. 340. Because Civil War Preservation Trust has been able to put together a matching grant that turns every dollar donated into \$7.50 that enhances our donation to \$3,750.00 in value. Tom also noted our gift would purchase 4,200 square feet of land and the gift to Harper's Ferry would tie in with our past history of donating to those battlefield sites we visit.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Jack Gurney provided a second revolver manufactured by the Starr Arms Company. This weapon was a single action revolver 44 caliber percussion piece. This revolver was designed as an improved and less costly revolver than the 1858 double action unit made by Starr Arms. This 1863 single action weapon was manufactured between 1863 and 1865 about 32,000 units were produced for the United States Government. Next to Colt and Remington revolvers the Starr weapon was the next largest number of pieces bought by the government.

During the evening Jack Gurney was asked when the full metal-jacketed bullet came into use. It was not designed for use during the Civil War. Jack believed it was in the era of the First World War. Tom Tate added this information for the Newsletter. A jacketed bullet has a thin skin of harder metal that prevents the lead from the bullet to slough off and fill the grooves of the rifled barrel. If this happened it would cause an impediment in the accuracy of the rifle. Tom advised the first such steel jacket bullet had its probable beginning from 1893 to 1902 and reached its full development in about 1922. The short

answer to the question to Jack would be 1893. See Tom if you have any additional questions on the steel jacketed bullet.

BOOK RAFFLE/PRESERVATION

The membership bought \$123.00 worth of raffle tickets at the March meeting. The ticket sales plus two donations brought our preservation fund to \$1,038.00. Through Tom's suggested and approved donation of \$500.00 to Civil War Preservation Trust for Harper's Ferry our fund balance will be reduced to \$538.00. We should add to that figure in the next two meetings and come close to \$800.00 by the end of this campaign.

MARCH PROGRAM REVIEW

Our speaker for our March meeting was fellow Round Table member Edgar M. "Ed" Ewing his topic "Military Prisons of the Civil War." Ed was assisted as he began his presentation by Mrs. Joanne Ewing who distributed a handout to all members present. The handout identified the sources used by Ed for his presentation and information on regulations committed to by both Union and Confederate services regarding treatment of prisoners of war. An important feature of this handout was the Prisoner Exchange Cartel of June 22, 1862. This cartel was executed at Hoxell's Landing in Virginia following several rounds of negotiations between the Confederate Major General D.H. Hill and the Federal Major General John A. Dix. The cartel identified the basis of exchange and formalized the arrangements for exchange of prisoners.

Ed noted the cartel worked for a year in an atmosphere of good will and mutual trust but began to fail as it became entangled in legalities, bureaucratic complexities, policy and diplomatic considerations. Ed also noted cheating on both sides as a contributing factor to its difficulties. We can understand that in the context of an ongoing war, especially a civil war, the atmosphere of good will and mutual trust would not last thus making the operation of the cartel doomed to failure.

An important point in the presentation was the reluctance of President Lincoln to deal with Confederate counterparts, regarding the prisoner of war issue, for fear of implying recognition of the legitimacy of the Confederate government. It would also suggest the Confederacy would use prisoners of war to enhance their position as a sovereign country. Ed also pointed out that neither Lincoln nor Davis approved of the abuse of prisoners. Following this lead General Grant and General Lee also opposed prisoner abuse. In fact most commanders on both sides, motivated in part by orders and also notions of chivalry, did not support abuse of prisoners. Ed did state that Nathan Bedford Forrest was an exception to this rule. While General Grant opposed abuse he also came to understand that the numerically superior North gained less from prisoner exchanges than did the Confederacy. As the war continued the issue of race raised by black soldiers in blue uniforms added to the prisoner exchange problem. Confederate authorities threatened to execute black Union soldiers and their white captured officers, even as Lincoln and the Federal Government insisted that all their soldiers be treated alike by the Confederacy. The battles of Saltville, Fort Pillow and the Crater were defining actions of Confederate mistreatment of black prisoners.

Our speaker spoke of his sources, as I understood his comments, containing questionable content by some of the authors and the history of this subject should be taken with "a grain of salt" and also this history at times "just aint so." He did provide some background information on the prisoner issues in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Mexican War. He noted America utilized paroles in all its early wars,

with the most extensive use occurring during the Civil War. Of the 463,000 Union and 212,000 Confederate soldiers and sailors captured during the Civil War, 248,000 and 17,000 respectively were paroled. Early in the war prisoners were not a problem and little preparations for prisoners of war were addressed because both sides expected a short conflict.

Because neither side was prepared for war in 1861, particularly for a war with tens of thousands of long-term prisoners, prisons would be needed. Some 150 places were used as prisons on both sides during the war. These prisons fit certain types of arrangements such as: former jails and penitentiaries, altered buildings, old fortifications, enclosures around barracks, enclosures around tents and open stockades. In the South you also had tobacco factories that were common and were excellent for use as prisoner of war camps. While abuse was not sanctioned at high government levels it must be stated as Ed pointed out that treatment of prisoners was a most depressing, and certainly one of the more controversial factors of the American Civil War. POW camps were put together in a hurry and with poor thought of what and how they should be developed. Camp guards had little training if any and had limited authority most were more frightened of the inmates because of their numbers. Ed pointed out that guards killed few prisoners. Perhaps the biggest threat to prisoners in addition to disease were the "camp raiders" who decided they were going to survive regardless of the cost to their fellow soldiers. Ed estimated that about 2,500 men, on both sides, escaped from prison camps.

About 144,000 Union soldiers and 215,000 Confederates were held as prisoners. Approximately 30,000 Union and 26,000 Confederates died while captive. This was 9% of the wars' dead. In his closing remarks Ed identified the two best prisoner of war camps on each side. The Federal camp at Fort Warren in Boston and the Confederate camp, Camp Ford in Tyler, Texas. Our speaker listed ten camps he viewed as the worst of prison camps. Heading the list and far worst than all the others was Andersonville in Georgia followed in this order by Camp Douglas, Illinois, Point Lookout, Maryland, Salisbury, North Carolina, Elmira, New York, Florence, South Carolina, Fort Delaware, Delaware, Camp Chase, Ohio, Rock Island, Illinois and Camp Morton, Indiana. Our speaker commented on each of these locations and made it very clear being a prisoner of war in any of these camps was a tragedy.

Through out his presentation Ed provided numerous comical comments regarding different points in his talk and provided the Round Table with an excellent program on a subject of great interest. A great deal more could be presented on this program hopefully we have reviewed a number of the high points of Mr. Ewing's presentation. The Round Table extends a sincere thanks and appreciation to Ed and his assistant, never leave the wife out, for a great talk and a great evening's work.

DID YOU KNOW

A STORY CLOSE TO HOME

This issue of Did You Know has a local flavor to it as we look at the history of the GAR Monument in the Charles Evans Cemetery in Reading, Pennsylvania. We begin on a Sunday afternoon in the fall of 1885. Civil War veteran Henry S. Beckhardt, a machinist for the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad who lived at 553 North Ninth Street in Reading was taking a stroll through a park, Penn's Common, when he came to an area along Hill Road known as Potter's Field. This place had been used as a cemetery since 1847, the burial place of unknown and unclaimed prisoners and paupers. Beckhardt

certain that he knew no one buried there nevertheless scanned the crudely painted boards marking some of the graves. To his surprise and shock there were two names he recognized! The names of two men who he had served with during the war under Captain James McNight in Battery M, 5th U.S. Artillery, formerly the Ringgold Light Artillery, The First Defenders.

Shocked at the gravesites in a Potter's Field he stared in disbelief. He recalled both men receiving wounds early in the war, and that neither had ever fully recovered. Overcome by their ignominious burial site he hurried home to share his sad tale with his wife and young daughter. He explained he felt a personal guilt over such neglect of two fellow veterans of the war.

Beckhardt took action and what he started resulted on September 10, 1887 in one of the most patriotic spectacles in Reading's history. It was the dedication of the Grand Army of the Republic Monument in Charles Evans Cemetery. Henry Beckhardt's first step took place on Monday the day following his discovery. Attending a meeting of the McLean Post 16 GAR held at 827 Penn Street in Reading Beckhardt told the attending veterans of his Sunday discovery. It was a story he would repeat again and again over the next 18 months as he spoke before church societies, fraternal lodges, fire companies and social groups, at political and civic meetings and club picnics.

Beckhardt proposed that Monday night in 1885, that a cemetery plot be secured for the burial of Civil War veterans. The McLean Post approved the idea and asked the Keim Post 96 GAR to join in the movement. While the Keim Post was smaller in numbers it had numerous officers from Berks County as members including Major General David M. Gregg. As both GAR posts worked together they found Beckhardt's discovery just a small part of the neglect. Fifteen other veterans were found buried in a Potter's Field near Shillington. Another twenty-six were identified in the "poor plot" at Charles Evans Cemetery. A committee from both Posts decided ground was needed for approximately 200 graves.

The committee approached the trustees of Charles Evans Cemetery, one of whose number included General Gregg, the trustees supported the idea as many had family members who served in the Civil War. On November 14, 1885, the Charles Evans Cemetery trustees resolved to set aside a group of lots, comprising 3,000 square feet of the new section in the cemetery, for burial of Civil War veterans and the erection of a suitable granite monument, costing no less than \$2,000. Re-internment of veterans buried in Potters' Fields around the county began as soon as weather permitted.

Beckhardt's speaking campaign then began as he worked to secure funds needed for the approved memorial. A previous attempt in 1883 to solicit funds for a monument at Penn's Square in downtown Reading had failed. Beckhardt's persistence however bore fruit and he and his committee ultimately collected \$4,000.00 for the project. This amount would allow for a larger monument than planned and for hiring a sculptor. The man selected was a noted Reading sculptor, Dr. Herman Strecker who is best remembered for other memorial sculpturing in Charles Evans Cemetery.

The monument built stands 40 feet high and is built of New Hampshire blue stone, in 13 pieces. The base is 13 feet square and one foot thick. Above that, rises another stone base, nine feet square, and 21/2 feet thick. The base stonework and the inscriptions there on were the work of Dennis McSherry, a stonecutter in the Reading area. The figure of a bugler, sculpted by Strecker and standing 81/2 feet high, holding a nickel-plated bugle

stands on top of the monument. The statue weighs 7 tons by itself. The model for Strecker's figure on top was a Civil War veteran named Charles Gilliams, a member of the McLean Post. Gilliams was a bugler and later a First Sergeant with Company M, Sixth Cavalry. Gilliams posed as a bugler sounding "taps" over the graves of his comrades.

On the date of the monument dedication a crowd estimated at 30,000 crowded the cemetery plot to witness the program. How many others lined the streets of Reading for the parade no one attempted to guess. General David M. Gregg was chosen Chief Marshal for the parade. At the time of the unveiling Henry Beckhardt's ten year old daughter Beulah Beckhardt did the honor. It was a day of great festivity in Reading and one of great significance.

Henry Beckhardt cried the day he first saw the headboards in the Potter's Field he also cried on the day of the dedication, but the second time they were tears of joy. The GAR Monument stands today in Charles Evans Cemetery if you have never seen it take a few moments and visit Charles Evans Cemetery for the monument stands today as it did in September 1887. Henry Beckhardt's endeavor to restore the honor of his fallen comrades stands out and the GAR Monument is not only to salute the men of the Civil War from this area but also and certainly for Mr. Beckhardt who stands as tall and straight as the monument itself.

I hope you enjoyed this issue of "Did You Know" I felt it was a worthwhile presentation.

CIVIL WAR USAGE

FIELD OF FIRE---An unobstructed area across which Guns had a clear line of sight.

ASSEMBLY---A signal from a drum or bugle calling every man in a post or command to come together at a designated central spot.

GREEN TROOPS---A body of soldiers with little or no military training. The manpower needs of armies on both sides meant that few battles of any consequence lacked green regiments. European observers of the war suggested that a few regulars from the U.S. Army should be included in every green unit so as to demonstrate proper soldiering to the newcomers.

MONITOR---A term used to designate a class of Northern Ironclad that was similar in design to the U.S.S. Monitor, a mostly submerged vessel with a two-gun turret.

TO POLICE---Any effort to remove litter and trash and improve the appearance of a camp, barracks or prison. This was and probably still is a common practice in Army units to keep an area cleaned up.

APRIL QUIZ

Q.1 For a soldier in camp, time was a much more foe than the enemy. Along with music, the occasional theatrical performance, and some impromptu social gathering, playing sports was a popular pastime. Can you name any of the five most favorite sports played by troops on both sides?

Q.2 This Southern city experienced the following four factors during a "major battle," a river crossing under-fire, city hit by artillery fire, fighting within the city and a city sacked during the battle. It is probable that no other city experienced these factors during the war. Name the Southern city?

Q.3 This Confederate officer was the second highest-ranking Confederate killed in the war. He was killed on June 14, 1864. Can you identify this officer and if possible the site location of his death?

APRIL MEETING

Our April meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday April 12, 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 April 4, 2005**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-4384**. Please make your reservation calls after **5PM**, when leaving a message please speak clearly providing your dinner selection and your name. Dinner selections for our April meeting are **Quakertown Roast, Baked Manicotti and Baked Haddock**. Our dinner price is \$16.00.

IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT

We have a problem regarding the placing of dinner reservations that we need the cooperation of all members to correct. We are receiving more and more late request for dinner reservation that go beyond the cutoff date. This situation is placing the Round Table in an unfavorable position with Moselem Springs Restaurant. Your Board of Directors request your cooperation starting with this coming April meeting that you make all reservations prior to and no later than the noted cutoff date placed in the Newsletter.

The Round Table desires to maintain good relations with Moselem Spring and we are asking your total cooperation and understanding regarding this important matter. Please help us with this issue. The Round Table thanks all members for their cooperation.

Our program for our April meeting will be "The Conspiracies to Assassinate Lincoln." Our speaker will be fellow member Joe Schaeffer. I am sure Joe will follow in the steps of our March speaker and provide us with another excellent program. With the weather improving, hopefully, come join us for a fine evening.

Attached to the newsletter is information on our June field trip please review if you are planning on going on the trip. Any question on the attachment please contact Rich Kennedy.

"BITS OF TRIVIA"

25 percent of all white men of military age in the South were killed.

On April 20, 1861: The first spy captured was Professor Thaddeus S.C. Lowe in South Carolina.

\$1,500.00: This price was offered to British soldiers in Canada to desert and join the Union Army.

Two billion dollars was the amount of the National debt at the end of the war.

Frank and Jesse James both rode with William Clark Quantrill.

That's it for April!

Tony Reilly

Newsletter Editor 610-921-3131.

**FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT
ANTIETAM/HARPER'S FERRY BUS TRIP
11-12 JUNE 2005**

\$150.00 per person/double occupancy
[private lodging... add \$44.00]

[All-inclusive except Saturday and Sunday *lunch* will be each individual's responsibility.]

Trip will also include South Mountain and Bolivar Heights.

Please return trip forms/checks by 15 April 2005 [Uncle Sam's Day].

Checks payable to: *First Defenders CWRT*.

Mail completed forms, including \$150.00 p/p to:

Richard T. Kennedy
114 Old Spies Church Road
Reading, PA 19606

Please note: *If* your "trip fund money jar" is currently inadequate [and we have all been there], please fill out and send form. Checks will be graciously accepted until May 1st.

Questions?...Concerns?...Telephone: 610.779.6923...e-mail Kenwyckel@aol
cell: 610.780.9725...*Communication!*

Wearing First Defenders shirts is definitely recommended.

Departure from Kutztown University's Lyle parking lot.

Lodging at Hampton Inn, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Wine and cheese gathering at hotel prior to dinner.

Dinner at the Old South Mountain Inn.

Complete itinerary/directions to pick-up site will be mailed to all participants one week prior to the trip.

*...If you able, save for them a place within you.
And offer as well, one backward glance when you are leaving
-for the places they can no longer go.*

First Defenders CWRT
Antietam/Harper's Ferry Bus Trip
11/12 June 2005
\$150.00 per person [double occupancy]
private accommodations...add \$44.00

Member name[s] _____

Phone _____

Saturday evening entree selections for OLD SOUTH MOUNTAIN INN.
Please **CIRCLE** your entree selection[s]. Mark "X2" if couple's selections are identical.

Prime Rib of Beef au jus [petite cut]

served with baked potato and fresh vegetable melange.

Breast of Chicken Cordon Bleu

stuffed with Swiss cheese and prosciutto ham, breaded and baked golden brown. Served with Hollandaise sauce. Accompanied by rice pilaf and fresh vegetable melange.

Horseradish Encrusted Salmon

Fresh Atlantic salmon breaded in a horseradish and herb crust, served on a bed of garlicky mashed potatoes.

****cash bar available through your server****

Joe Schaeffer
Lincoln Assassination

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

MAY 2005

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Our April meeting was attended by 71 members and guest this was our largest turnout for a meeting in this our eighth campaign. Hopefully our May meeting, our final one for this eighth year, will match or better April. Vice President Ron Rhein opened our meeting by presenting our new members with their membership certificates. The Round Table welcomes Glenn Adams, James Bowman, William J. Burns II, Ray E. Miller, Wayne Moser and Doris Reaser as our new First Defenders.

Ron followed up on our request to the members in the April Newsletter to help us with the issue of getting your dinner reservations in by our cutoff date. This is an important issue and we hope all members will cooperate.

Arlan Christ provided his monthly treasurer report. Balance as of 3-8-05 \$3,331.85, new income \$1,008.00, new expenses \$1,816.25 providing a new balance of \$2,523.60 as of 4-12-05. \$506.00 of this money is allocated to our preservation fund.

Rich Kennedy provided a somewhat bleak picture of our planned June field trip to Antietam. Only 19 firm commitments have been received prior to our April meeting. I believe we need 35 to break even the next few weeks will be telling as to whether we go or cancel. I hope it's a go our trips have been great and Rich and Cathy put a great deal of work into setting them up.

Ron notified attending members that next month's meeting will be election night for officers and board members for next year. Anyone interested in serving let a board member know or have your name presented for a position at the May meeting. Ron also noted that President Dave Valuska will be resigning his position as President following the May meeting.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Jack Gurney provided a United States Cavalry Leather Carrying Case used by Civil War era doctors for transporting their surgical sets generally found in a wooden case. This case would fit over a horse for transporting it. Jack noted this is a very rare item and they are hard to find.

Julia Ward Howe was paid \$4.00 for the rights to the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

\$2.8 million: This was the amount spent to publish the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

During the Civil War there were 12,591 boys between the ages of 12 to 17 that served in the Union Army.

Following the war 20% of the total revenues of the State of Mississippi in 1866 were allocated for the purchase of artificial arms and legs.

BOOK RAFFLE / PRESERVATION

Mr. Thomas Tate reports that at our April meeting members purchased or donated dollars that added another \$141.00 to our preservation fund this brings our fund to \$679.00 and that is after our recent donation of \$500.00 to the Harper's Ferry land deal through CWPT.

Tom added that he continues to receive many donated books from members for which he extends his thanks. We have a good inventory of good titled books and we will bring a higher number of books for the May raffle.

Tom makes the following suggestion regarding our book raffles. He feels it may be a good idea to have a second person to help with the raffle. While he makes most of the meetings if something came up preventing his attending a meeting a backup would help. This person could keep a number of the books for a raffle and in Tom's absence he or she could conduct that evenings raffle. We then would not have to cancel a raffle and there would be no loss of preservation dollars. Anyone interested please contact Tom at the next meeting.

APRIL PROGRAM REVIEW

"Now he belongs to the ages." At 7:22AM on the morning of April 15, 1865 these words were stated by United States Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton following the death of President Abraham Lincoln while standing at Lincoln's bedside. Our speaker for our April meeting, Joe Schaeffer a fellow Round Table member, opened his presentation "Conspiracies to Assassinate Lincoln" by echoing Stanton's words. If I understood correctly Joe noted that subjects and issues of the war were treated as being disconnected from the assassination conspiracies but in fact Lincoln's assassination and ultimate death were for the same reasons as the deaths of the soldiers who fought the war. A legacy to the nation one that was essential the preservation of the Union and the liberation of the slaves.

With the Emancipation Proclamation Lincoln had made the liberation of slaves a goal of the Union government. The end of slavery thus became not only a national war goal but provided the moral justification of a brutal conflict. While the proclamation provided a positive attitude in the North it was the cause of anger in the South. Joe pointed out that anger toward Lincoln was not confined to the South that many in the North were against the President. Because there was no "Secret Service" in those times friends of the President suggested he take care. One of the people most concerned with Lincoln's welfare was a close friend Ward Hill Lamon. Appointed Marshal of the District of Columbia Mr. Lamon considered himself the President's chief bodyguard and protector. Among others increasingly fearful for Lincoln's life was Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. Stanton was a man who did not view Lincoln with favor, but as the two worked together, they had come to hold each other in high esteem.

At this point in his presentation Joe spoke of the conspiracies and conspirators that looked to capture and "get" Lincoln. A plot to assassinate Lincoln while on his way to Washington, for his inauguration, was developed in Barnum's Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. On the last leg of his trip on February 23, 1861 the train carrying Lincoln would stop in Baltimore. A pre-arranged brawl would have the local police get involved in the fight and leave Lincoln open to assassination during the ensuing confusion. The plot was uncovered and changes made regarding the trip caused the failure of the Baltimore attempt. Joe identified other conspirators who all wished to get Lincoln. Joseph

Walker Taylor, allegedly the first man to propose capturing Lincoln and brother of ex-President Zack Taylor, had his scheme turned down by Jeff Davis. Wade Hampton, well-known cavalry commander, approved a cavalry raid to capture Lincoln in Washington. Luke Pryor Blackburn had a plan to spread a "yellow Fever" epidemic in the North. Captain Thomas Nelson Conrad an ordained minister who worked as a cavalry scout and a spy. His plot was to capture Lincoln in Washington by isolating him from his help. When Lincoln was seen going about the city with a guard Conrad assumed his cover had been blown and he left Washington to avoid capture. Thomas Harney was another conspirator who had been chosen to blow up the White House this plot also failed. As our speaker pointed out there were many conspiracies and many conspirators.

Joe spoke of the famous, but failed, Union cavalry raid the Kilpatrick-Dalgren Raid. The raid was to free Federal prisoners held at Belle Isle and Libby Prison in Richmond. During the raid Colonel Ulrich Dalgren was ambushed and killed on his person he carried papers that stated that one objective of the raid was "once in the city it must be destroyed and Jeff Davis and his cabinet killed." A controversy developed and many fingers were pointed in both directions. While the controversy died Jeff Davis and Judah Benjamin were provided with ammunition for future ventures in assassination plots.

Progressing with his talk Joe turned his attention to John Wilkes Booth the man who killed the President. Reviewing Booth's life he identified him as heavy drinker, a racist, an aristocrat, a ladies man, a talented actor who loved the theater especially Shakespearian Tragedies. He noted Booth was a zealot, the American Brutus who would destroy the American Caesar. He provided information on Booth's father Junius Brutus Booth, his mother Mary Ann Holmes and his brothers and sisters. He was his mother's favorite and he was very close to his sister Asia.

Joe provided a great deal of information on Booth's plan to capture the President and on the band of Southern sympathizers who would play a part in his plans. With Lee's surrender Booth changed his plan to capture Lincoln and take him south to killing him. The assassination would take place at Ford's Theater on the evening of April 14, 1865. This plot also included the killing of Vice-President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William Seward by Booth's accomplices. As we all know Booth was successful in carrying out his part his two accomplices were not. Joe concluded his presentation by outlining Booth's escape route, eventual capture and the military trial of the conspirators.

One of the issues our speaker spoke to during his presentation was whether or not the Confederate government directed Booth's plans, was aware of them, or whether Booth worked alone remains to this day as unclear. Mr. Schaeffer's presentation was indeed a detailed address of "Conspiracies to Assassinate Lincoln" there is no question he had to spend a great deal of time in its preparation. For those who could not attend our April meeting I hope the review provides some information on this fine program. The First Defenders extends a sincere thank you to fellow member Joe and to his able assistant Mrs. Schaeffer.

DID YOU KNOW

THE FILE CLOSERS

The file closer could be defined as "comrades ready to kill" in fact the second edition of Webster's International Dictionary of the English Language (1934) provides this description of the role of the file closer "A commissioned or noncommissioned officer in the rear of a line, or on the flank of a column, to rectify mistakes and insure steadiness in

the ranks." To further clarify it was their duty to see that men making up a file did not spread out and mess up a line that was supposed to be straight and tight. They were soldiers charged with the responsibility of keeping troops in formation and directing the movement of wounded men to the rear.

At least as early as the spring of 1862, the file closers' job description was expanded. They were given the added task of following behind the lines in battle and ensuring that the men fought and did not run and desert. Anyone who attempted to flee the front line was forced back at sword or gun point. File closers were also empowered to execute any man who failed to do his duty.

During the Civil War file closers generally came from the ranks of noncommissioned officers. Officers might occasionally serve in this capacity, but only when they had no one else to do the job. Evidently every man in uniform quickly came to know what file closers were ordered to do, but there seems to have been a conspiracy of silence concerning this function. In the approximately 133,000 pages of the Official Records, file closers are mentioned only eighteen times. Most of these notations are casual to the point of meaninglessness. This suggests that the file closers did their duty without hinting at what that duty was. They were handpicked men who were not allowed to question the task to which they were assigned.

General Robert E. Lee, in February of 1865, included a circular in a General Orders No. 4 directed to the Army of Northern Virginia during the siege of Petersburg that underscored the need for keen military discipline in the face of fighting along the siege lines. With regard to file closers, he wrote: Particular attention is to be followed with reference to the duties of file closers. The whole number of file closers in each company shall be one for every ten men. They will be required to prevent straggling and be held responsible for their respective squads of ten. In action they will keep two paces behind the rear rank of their several squads, with loaded guns and fixed bayonets. They will be instructed to aid in preserving order in the ranks and enforcing obedience to commands, and to permit no man to leave his place unless wounded, excused in writing by the regimental medical officer, or by order of the regimental commander. If any refuse to advance, disobey orders, or leave the ranks to plunder or to retreat, the file closer will promptly cut down or fire upon the delinquents. They will treat in the same manner any man who uses words or actions calculated to produce alarm among the troops. It will be enjoined upon file closers that they shall make the evasion of duty more dangerous than its performance.

In light of General Lee's instructions, and the fact that the majority of Civil War field commanders seemed to function under the same interpretation of the duties of file closers we can believe the role of file closer was not a popular one. Although the Official Records give no hint that soldiers sometimes turned on the file closers in combat, it is not unlikely such actions occurred frequently enough to prevent most men from desiring the job of file closer and the fact that the file closer was not a popular man in the ranks. Truly the file closer assignment was a tough thankless job.

CIVIL WAR USAGE

TO SPOON--Two or more persons lying on their sides, front to back, knees slightly bent, as they "nest" like stored spoons. In cramped quarters, especially prison conditions, this was the only way in which soldiers could sleep in relative comfort.

TO REFUSE---To hold back a segment of a line, the center, a wing or a flank, so as to force an enemy to keep troops there. This tactic sometimes created an opportunity to attack a vulnerable point in the opponent's line because he was unable to move troops from the point of refusal.

FORTY DEAD MEN---A Federal soldier's allotment of forty cartridges prior to going into battle.

TO FEINT---An offensive move against an opponent designed to deceive the opponent as to the location and or time of an actual offensive action.

BRIDGEHEAD---An advanced position in enemy-held country.

MAY QUIZ

Q.1 This Federal Regiment, from Ohio, fought at South Mountain and Antietam it possessed a distinctive fact that was shared by no other military unit in history. Identify the Federal regiment and its unique distinction?

Q.2 The famous "Lost Order No. 191" was addressed to the brother-in-law of a Confederate Corps Commander. The Confederate officer did not receive that order, however, he distinguished himself while commanding troops at South Mountain and in one of the most hotly contested fights at the Battle of Antietam. Identify this officer?

Q.3 At the Battle of Antietam Major General George B. McClellan had six infantry corps available to him to commit to battle. Which of these six corps launched the first Federal strikes against the Confederate forces on September 17, 1862 and who commanded this attacking corps?

MAY MEETING

Our May meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday May 10, 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 May 2, 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. Dinner selections for our May meeting are **Shepherd's Pie, Grilled Salmon and Baked Ziti**. Our dinner price is \$16.00.

Our final program for our eighth campaign takes us to the western theater where our two western heroes will return with the history of another western battle. Just for clarification the two heroes are not Matt Dillon and John Wayne. We will do much better than that. Ron Rhein and Mike Gabriel will speak to us on the Battle of Chickamauga. Ron and Mike have covered other western battles in previous presentations and they have been top of the line talks. If you want an informative evening on one of the wars great battles don't miss our May meeting. I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

This being our last meeting until next September we look forward to a fine turnout and a great evening. See you on May 10.

Tony Reilly
Newsletter Editor 610-921-3131