

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2009



A New Campaign Begins

Welcome back to a new season! The programs have been set and promise to impress Round Table members. Mark your calendars now for the 2nd Tuesday of the next 9 months and read on for details...

Round Table Business

Old Business:

On May 12, 2009, President Mike Gabriel called to order the May meeting of the First Defenders Round Table.

Dave Fox reported that there were 36 people signed up for the field trip to Frederick with space for 10 more. A report from Roger Cotterill and Dave follows in this newsletter.

During the book raffle, it was decided to donate \$400 to Richmond, \$500 to Monocacy, and \$400 to Cedar Creek. The monies were disbursed from the book raffle fund (\$700), from the treasury (\$500), and from the trip fund (\$100).

The Election of Officers resulted in the following:

President—Joe Schaeffer	Vice President—Robert Marks
Treasurer—Arlan Christ	Membership—Pat Christ
Book Raffle/Preservation—Tom Tate	Recording Secretary—Richard Kennedy
Solicitor—Robert Grim	Newsletter—Linda Zeiber
Board-at-Large—Dave Fox & Roger Cotterill	Program Coordinators—Errol Steffy & Barbara Shafer (Don Stripling will be added if approved by the membership.)

New Business:

There was a discussion about ordering shirts and hats. The program coordinators would like to give them to speakers who do not receive an honorarium. Further discussion was held during the Board of Directors meeting in June. Richard Kennedy will give more information in his minutes of that meeting.

Several trip ideas were talked about for spring of 2010, and it was suggested that we have our own flag for meetings. After checking with Moselem Springs, Joe Schaeffer was assured that there would be a flag available for every meeting.

Book Raffle/Preservation

Tom Tate reports the following for the new season:

The inventory of books to be raffled is good. In fact, at the board meeting, it was suggested that I raffle more books each night. I think that I can do that at least for the beginning months of this new season.

CWPT is working to raise funds for Port Republic and Trevillian Station, but it is early to say much more about preservation/raffle at this point.

For Consideration...

For discussion at September's meeting: Do we want to consider increasing membership in order to have better attendance at meetings? Think this over before the meeting in preparation for making a decision.

WANTED!

Webmaster

We are looking for a webmaster to design a website for our Round Table. If you or someone you are aware of would be interested in this job, please contact Joe Schaeffer or any board member as soon as possible. We need to get the word out about our organization. This is not a paid position.

Frederick, MD, Field Trip Report

We arrived in good time at the Frederick National Museum of Civil War Medicine and broke into two groups for the morning docent-guided tours. We were given an insight into the art of medicine during the Civil War and how, from being poorly prepared for a war, hospital staffs became skilled and well-organized and were able to handle the enormous tasks that they had to face later. This was reflected in the 92% survival rate after hospital treatment. This was a very worthwhile tour.

In the afternoon, we were greeted at the Monocacy Battlefield Park by our tour guide Brett Spaulding who guided us around the battlefield and explained in detail how the crucial battle probably saved the nation's Capital from capture. Starting at dawn on July 9, 1864, Major General Lew Wallace, with a force of only 2,800 inexperienced 'hundred days' men and 3,000 veterans sent by Grant from Petersburg, fiercely fought 15,000 hardened Confederates led by Lt. Gen. Jubal Early whose goal was to threaten or take Washington. Although the Federals were outnumbered by the superior numbers and out-gunned by 36 Confederate artillery pieces to their 7 guns, they made a magnificent stand until late in the day when Wallace decided to retire from the battle before he lost all his troops.

Early's army won the battle of Monocacy, but so did Wallace's forces in a sense by delaying the Confederates by one day. It gave time for Grant to get two Union divisions by steamship from Petersburg to Washington to secure its depleted defenses. By the time the Confederate troops made it to the fortifications of Washington, they were too exhausted from the heat, the dust, and the continuous Union skirmishing that spread them out too thinly to make a meaningful attack. During the nights of July 12 and 13th, Jubal Early turned his army back to Virginia thus ending the 3rd and last Confederate invasion of the North.

As a bonus during the tour, we were given an interesting demonstration of artillery firing by reenactors from South Mountain. With a crew of 7, they fired a 12-pounder bronze/brass Napoleon smoothbore gun followed by a detailed explanation of the drill being carried out. The gun was made safe with a wet sponge, the vent "thumbed", cleaned with a tool called a worm, a shell carried from the limber ammunition chest to the gun, the gun loaded, primed, and, using a lanyard, fired. This was followed by a similar exercise with a 10-pounder 2.9" Parrot rifle iron gun.

Gail Stephens, our speaker at dinner, gave us an account of how from a very quick rise to become a young general early in the war Lew Wallace fell from grace for unjust reasons and how the records that she has perused show that he was very bright and used sound reasoning in battle situations. Early in the Western campaign, he was at odds with Halleck. Later at Shilo, he was blamed for taking his troops along the wrong road and was lost instead of quickly getting his division to reinforce Grant at Pittsburg Landing on the first day of the battle. Grant took heavy losses on this first day of fighting. The orders that Wallace received from Grant were verbal, second-hand, and imprecise. He never did take the wrong road and never was lost but took a route his cavalry had approved for more rapid movement compared to the alternative of a road that ran through swampy terrain. Because Union forces had retreated from their original right flank position, the road Wallace took would have taken his division behind Confederate lines, so he had to retrace his steps and move his troops and artillery wagons through swampy terrain.

As to the criticism that Wallace's troop movement was too slow; unencumbered, Gail walked the route in 7 1/4 hours. It took Wallace's forces on 7 hours even though they carried guns, ammunition, backpacks, equipment, etc. which she did not. Grant in his memoirs gave what should have been final vindication of Wallace at Shilo. She did not cover the Monocacy Battle since we had already covered it that day but brought to our attention the fact that Wallace was initially removed from command after the battle since it was initially seen as a defeat. However,

he was redeemed in Grant's eyes when he realized the significance of the Union Achievement at Monocacy Junction, and Wallace was re-instated to his command at the end of July 1864.

A book that Gail is writing on General Lew Wallace will be published in the fall. From the insight that she gave us, it will make great reading. A good day was had by all.

--submitted by Roger Cotterill and Dave Fox

Barbara's Trivia for September 109

- What is the Battlefield of Glorieta Pass known as? *Apache Canyon*
- Glorieta Pass Battlefield is located on what trail? *Santa Fe*
- I was celebrated as the hero of the 1861 Battle of Glorieta Pass. Who am I?

Honoring Lincoln's 200th Anniversary



From Linda Zeiber—Some question has arisen as to Mr. Lincoln's religious opinions, but this story illustrates his attitude toward religion. A Southern woman who had come to see Lincoln about her husband, who was confined in a Northern prison because of his "pernicious politics," mentioned the fact that the prisoner was a religious man.

"I'm glad to hear that," said Mr. Lincoln, cheerfully; and the lady smiled hopefully in response. Then he went on, "Because any man who wants to disrupt this Union needs all the religion in sight to save him."

Quotable

From Barbara Shafer—

"General, I have not heard from you with regard to the new Texas regiments, which you promised to raise for the army. I need them very much. I rely upon those we have in all our tight places, and fear I have to call upon them too often. They have fought grandly and nobly, and we must have more of them. Please make every possible exertion to get them on for me. You must help us in this matter. With a few more regiments such as Hood now has, as an example of daring and bravery, I could feel more confident of the campaign."—General Lee to General Wigfall, 1862

From Tom Tate—

Nellie Parker was the wife of William Watts Parker, the captain of Parker's Virginia Battery, one of the Confederate batteries in Longstreet's artillery that was first commanded by Stephen D. Lee and then by E. Porter Alexander. This battery from Richmond saw action throughout the war. She wrote to him saying, "Be courageous and brave, my beloved, but not rash or imprudent."



Victorian Poetry *Whitman*

Do you have a favorite poem from the Civil War era? We live in a time which abuses the English language through text-messaging, e-mail, and the media. The Victorians' use and appreciation of the language is evident in the writing of the period from letters home to generals' battle reports. Please share something that you like with our membership. Our first poem was contributed by Barbara Shafer.

A Year's "Casualties" by Ambrose Bierce

Slain as they lay by the secret, slow,
Pitiless hand of an unseen foe.
Two score thousand old soldiers have crossed
The river to join the loved and lost.
In the space of a year their spirits fled,
Silent and white, to the camp of the dead.

One after one they fall asleep
And the pension agents awake to weep,
And orphaned statesmen are loud in their wail
As the souls flit by on the evening gale,
O Father of Battles, pray give us release
From the horrors of peace, the horrors of peace!

September 8, 2009 Meeting

September's Program: Dale Kratzer—The Battle of Glorieta Pass

The battle was fought from March 26-28, 1862, in northern New Mexico Territory. It was the decisive battle of the New Mexico Campaign during the American Civil War. Known as the "Gettysburg of the West" by some historians, it was fought at Glorieta Pass in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, southern-most reach of the Rocky Mountains in present-day New Mexico.

Dinner selections for the meeting are **Roasted Turkey with gravy, Baked Ham with Thompson Grape Glaze, and Stuffed Shells**. The price is \$20.00 for meals. Please call in your reservation and menu selection at 610.683.4384 no later than Monday, August 31, 2009. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. ***NOTE: Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. The Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation.

2009-2010 Program Schedule

October 6, 2009:	Michael Snyder, Battle of Seven Pines, May 31-June 1, 1862
November 10, 2009:	Ron Rhein and Mike Gabriel, Pea Ridge
December 8, 2009:	Ed Bearss, "Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign"
January 12, 2010:	Round Table Discussion: Davis's Generals
February 9, 2010:	Dave Fox, Saltville
March 9, 2010:	Chris Heisey, Civil War Photography and Preservation
April 13, 2010:	Barnet Schecter, "The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America"
May 11, 2010:	Dave Sweigert, Wheatfield at Gettysburg and John Rutter Brooke and the 53 rd PA

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, 610.678.1168 or zeibers@comcast.net



Battle of Glorietta Pass
Pale Kratzer

Sept 8, 2009

PLAYERS AND PLACES

CONFEDERATE ARMY OF NEW MEXICO

BGen. Henry Hopkins Sibley, Commanding

Col. William Scurry, Commanding at Glorietta, 4th Texas Mounted Rifles

Maj. Charles Pyron, 1st day at Glorietta, 2nd Texas

Maj. John Shropshire, 4th Texas

Maj. Henry Raguet, 5th Texas

UNION/MILITARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO

Col. Edward R.S. Canby, Commanding, Military Dept. Of NM

Col. John Slough, 1st Colorado Volunteers

LCol Samuel Tappen, 1st Colorado

Maj. John Chivington, 1st Colorado

Col. Gabriel Paul, Commanding, Fort Union

LCol. Manuel Chaves, 2nd New Mexico Volunteers

PLACES

Glorietta Pass.....25 miles east of Santa Fe

Johnson Ranch. West end of Glorietta, Confederate camp

Kozlowski Ranch. East end of Glorietta. Union camp

Pigeon Ranch. Center of Glorietta. Scene of much of the fighting

Fort Union90 miles east of Santa Fe

Fort Craig/Valverde.....160 miles south of Santa Fe

Albuquerque.....60 miles south of Santa Fe

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

October 2009



Round Table Business

On September 8, 2009, President Joe Schaeffer called to order the September meeting of the First Defenders Round Table with 55 members and guests in attendance. Vice President Rob Marks offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joe thanked Mike Gabriel for his continuing work of taking reservations for meals and printing and mailing the newsletter. He also urged members in attendance to wear nametags, either one that you already have or one provided at each meeting. Joe reported that we are still looking for a webmaster for the round table. Don Stripling was added to the programs' committee for the coming year.

Richard Kennedy read the minutes from the June 18, 2009, board meeting.

Mike Gabriel shared information about a large purchase of Civil War books that are currently on sale at the Saucony Book Shop (484.646.9097) at 41 West Main Street in Kutztown across the street from the Turkey Hill.

Don Stripling described a program at Gettysburg Military Park called "Adopt a Position." If anyone is interested in getting involved, talk to Don or Barb Shafer. After a site is chosen, it will be maintained by volunteers. It involves two weekends a year and no machinery or heavy lifting is involved. The Park Service provides needed tools and supplies.

Treasurer's Report

Arlan Christ's report began with a balance from May 12, 2009, of \$5,995.97. Receipts from the May meeting totaled \$2,634.00 bringing a new balance of \$8,629.97. Expenses incurred totaled \$5,709.88 leaving a balance of \$2,920.09. He informed the membership that we currently do not have 100 members and that membership is open. All members are encouraged to renew memberships as soon as possible. The cost of membership remains at \$20.

Book Raffle/Preservation

Tom Tate reports the following:

We started off the 2009-10 season with \$7.00 in the fund, and, through ticket sales at the September meeting, it now stands at \$146.00. We are off to a good start. Member donations of books continue to be high, and I thank all of you for your generous donations. My thanks to Russ Angstadt for helping with the tickets while Marilyn helped Arlan in Pat's absence.

Field Trip for 2010

Roger Cotterill wrote a thorough report of last spring's trip to Frederick, MD for the September newsletter. Dave Fox discussed an array of possibilities for this coming June. This trip is tentatively planned for the second weekend in June.

Ed's Artifacts

Ed Ewing brought two pistols for inspection for our first meeting of the season. One was an 1839 flintlock pistol, the last ever made for the US Army. Most of these that are still around have been converted from flintlock to percussion cap. The other weapon was an 1842 percussion pistol which saw service and was in poorer shape than the 1839. He told us that these are rather easy to find but are usually beat up. Both were ungainly weapons

and were not known for their accuracy. As always, thanks to Ed for sharing his collection with us.



Webmaster

We are looking for a webmaster to design a website for our Round Table. If you or someone you are aware of would be interested in this job, please contact Joe Schaeffer or any board member as soon as possible. We need to get the word out about our organization. This is not a paid position.

September's Program

Dale Kratzer, an Alvernia College faculty member, presented a comprehensive program on the Battle of Glorieta Pass. The battle was fought from March 26-28, 1862, in northern New Mexico Territory. It was the decisive battle of the New Mexico Campaign during the Civil War. Known as the "Gettysburg of the West" by some historians, it was fought at Glorieta Pass in the Sangre do Cristo Mountains which are the southern-most reach of the Rocky Mountains in present day New Mexico. Dale enriched his presentation with photos of the modern day locations of the battle's actions.

Barbara's Trivia for October

1. In 1862, what battle resulted when the Confederates tried to defeat the Union troops south of the river?
2. What did Confederates call the Battle of Seven Pines, May 31-June 1, 1862?
3. Though fought virtually to a draw, what battle did Confederates list as Robert E. Lee's first victory?

Honoring Lincoln's 200th Anniversary



"If by the mere force of numbers a majority should deprive a minority of any clearly written constitutional right, it might, in a moral point of view, justify revolution—certainly would if such a right were a vital one....While the people retain their virtue and vigilance, no administration, by any extreme of wickedness or folly, can very seriously injure the government in the short space of four years."—1861 inaugural address

Quotable

From Barbara Shafer—

"It is a noble faculty of ours which enables us to collect our thoughts, our sympathies, and our happiness with what is distant in place or times....to hold communion with our ancestors. We become their contemporaries, live the lives they lived, endure what they have endured and partake of the rewards which they have enjoyed.—Daniel Webster



Victorian Poetry *Whitman*

Do you have a favorite poem from the Civil War era? The Victorians' use and appreciation of the language is evident in the writing of the period from letters home to generals' battle reports. Please share something that you like with our membership.

Was My Brother in the Battle?

By Stephen Foster

Tell me, tell me weary soldier from the rude and stirring wars,
Was my brother in the battle when you gained those noble scars?
He was ever brave and valiant, and I know he never fled,
Was his name among the wounded, or numbered with the dead?
Was my brother in the battle when the tide of war ran high?
You would know him in a thousand by his dark and flashing eye.
Tell me, tell me, weary soldier, will he never come again?
Did he suffer 'mid the wounded or die among the slain?—submitted by Barb Shafer

The Portent (1859)

By Herman Melville

Hanging from the beam,	Hidden in the cap
Slowly swaying (such the law),	Is the anguish none can draw;
Gaunt the shadow on your green,	So your future veils its face,
Shenandoah!	Shenandoah!
The cut is on the crown,	But the streaming beard is shown
(Lo, John Brown),	(Weird John Brown)
And the stabs shall heal no more.	The meteor of the war.—submitted by Tom Tate

**Tom notes that October will be the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid.

Cavalry Crossing a Ford

By Walt Whitman

A line in long array where they wind betwixt green islands,
They take a serpentine course, their arms flash in the sun—hark to the musical clank,
Behold the silvery river, in it the splashing horses loitering stop to drink,
Behold the brown-faced men, each group, each person a picture, the negligent rest on the saddles,
Some emerge on the opposite bank, others are just entering the ford—while,
Scarlet and blue and snowy white,
The guidon flags flutter gaily in the wind.—submitted by Linda Zeiber

October 13, 2009 Meeting

October's Program: Michael Snyder, Battle of Seven Pines, May 31-June 1, 1862
In March 1862, General George B. McClellan began moving his vast Army of the Potomac to the tip of the Virginia Peninsula to attack the Confederate capital, Richmond. The four months that followed was one of the most exciting periods in the Civil War.

Preview of December's Meeting and Ed Bearss

On December 8th we all have the opportunity to claim an early Christmas present by coming to the round table and listening to Ed Bearss, the rock star of Civil War history. Ed was born in June 1923 in Billings, MT, and grew up with kerosene lamps and horse-drawn plows. He remembers hearing first-hand Civil War stories told by the hometown veteran "Grandpa" Henderson.

He joined the Marines during World War II. Following his service in the war, he earned degrees at Georgetown and Indiana Universities. He then joined the National Park Service and devoted himself to the study of the Civil War. He is currently the Chief Historian Emeritus for the Park Service.

If you have never taken a battlefield tour with Ed or been privileged to hear him speak, you definitely don't want to miss our December meeting. Mark your calendar now!

Reservations for the October 13th Meeting

Dinner selections for the October meeting are ***Grilled Boneless Pork Loin with Cranberry BBQ; Grilled Strawberry Bourbon Salmon; Baked Ziti with Meatballs.*** The price is \$20.00 for meals. Please call in your reservation and menu selection at 610.683.4384 no later than Monday, October 5, 2009. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. ***NOTE: Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. The Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation.

2009-2010 Program Schedule

November 10, 2009:	Ron Rhein and Mike Gabriel, Pea Ridge
December 8, 2009:	Ed Bearss, Jackson's Valley Campaign of 1862
January 12, 2010:	Round Table Discussion: Davis's Generals
February 9, 2010:	Dave Fox, Saltville
March 9, 2010:	Chris Heisey, Civil War Photography and Preservation
April 13, 2010:	Barnet Schecter, "The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America"
May 11, 2010:	Dave Sweigert, Wheatfield at Gettysburg and John Rutter Brooke and the 53 rd PA

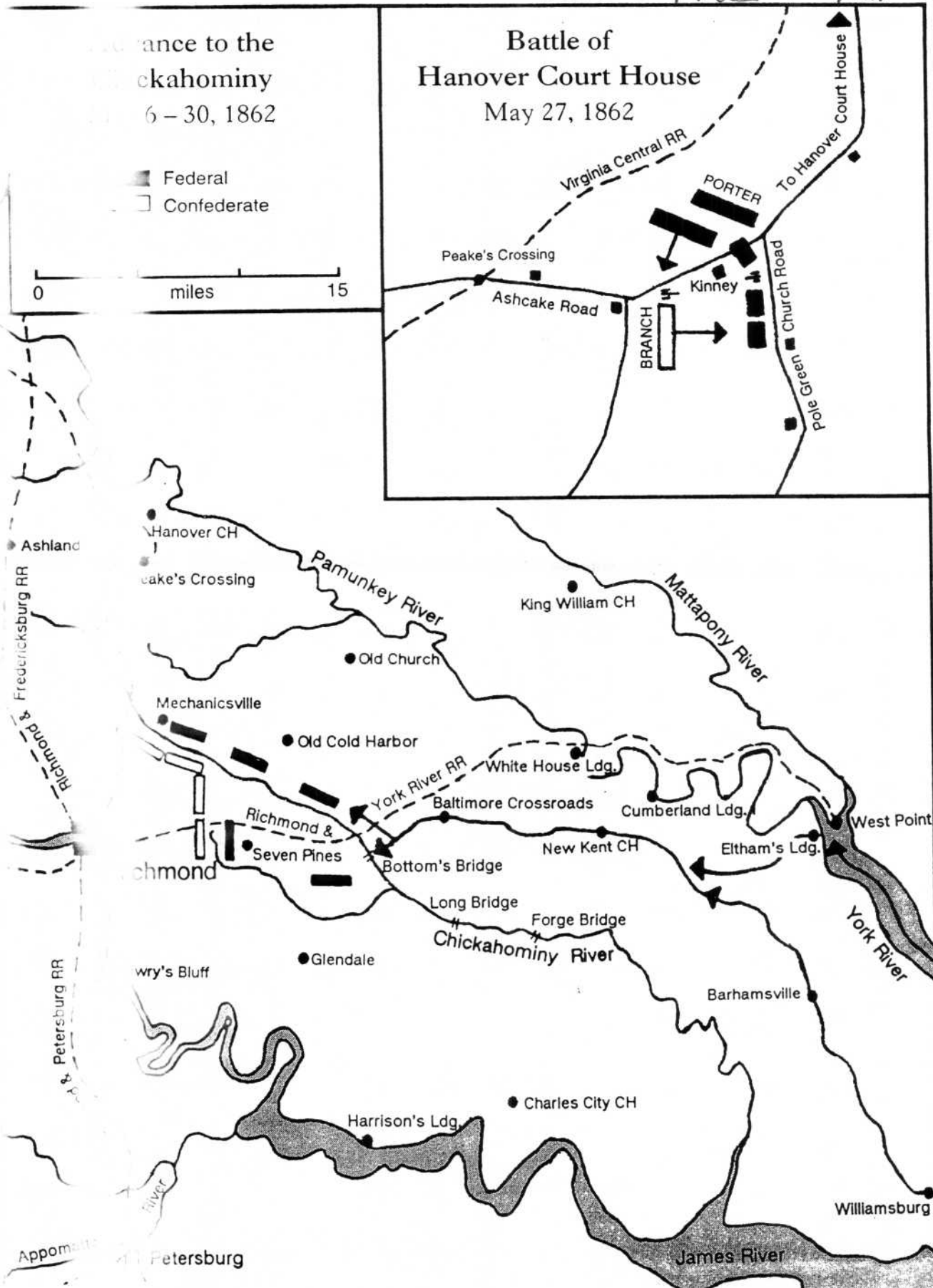
Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, 610.678.1168 or zeibers@comcast.net

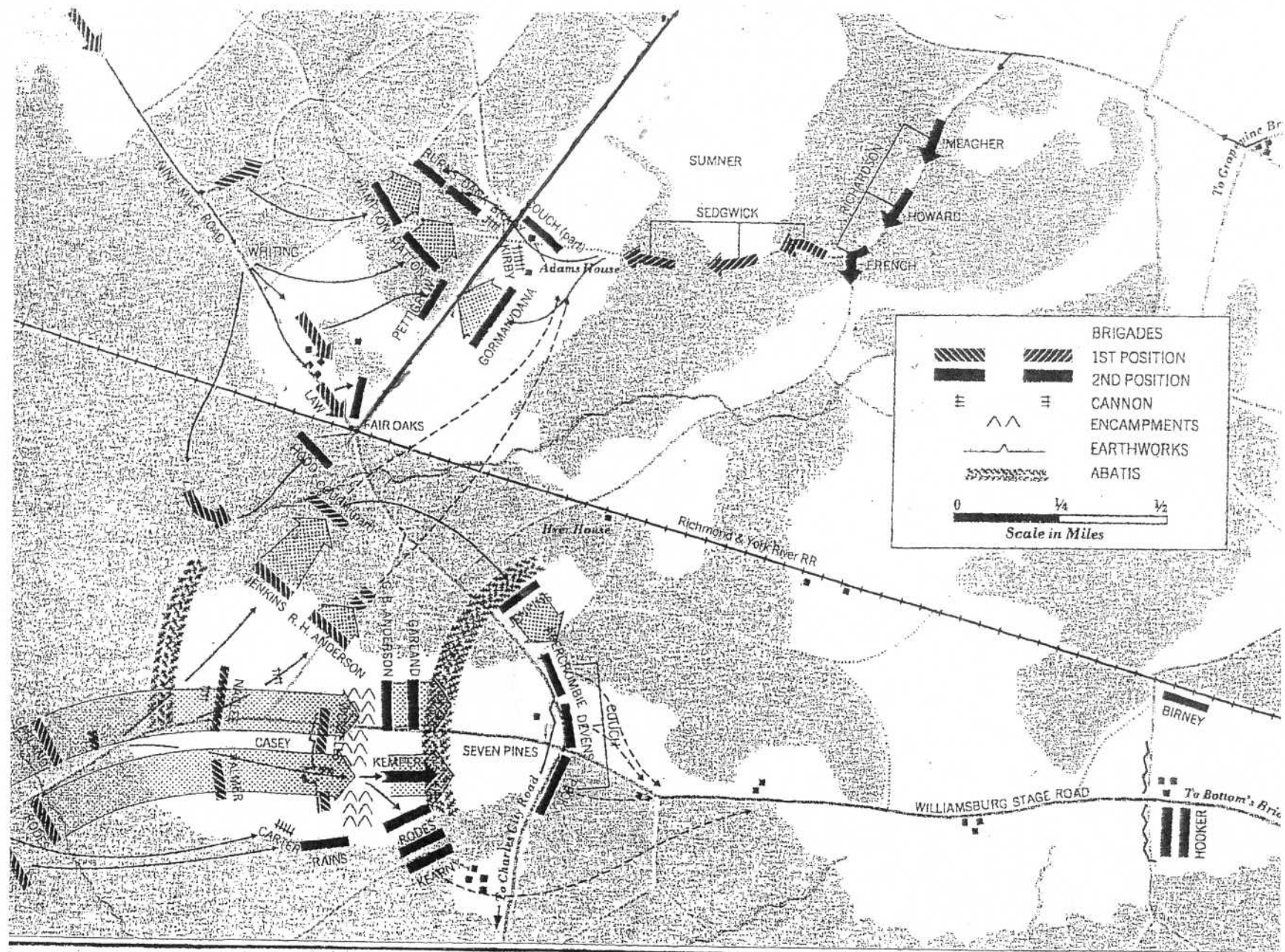


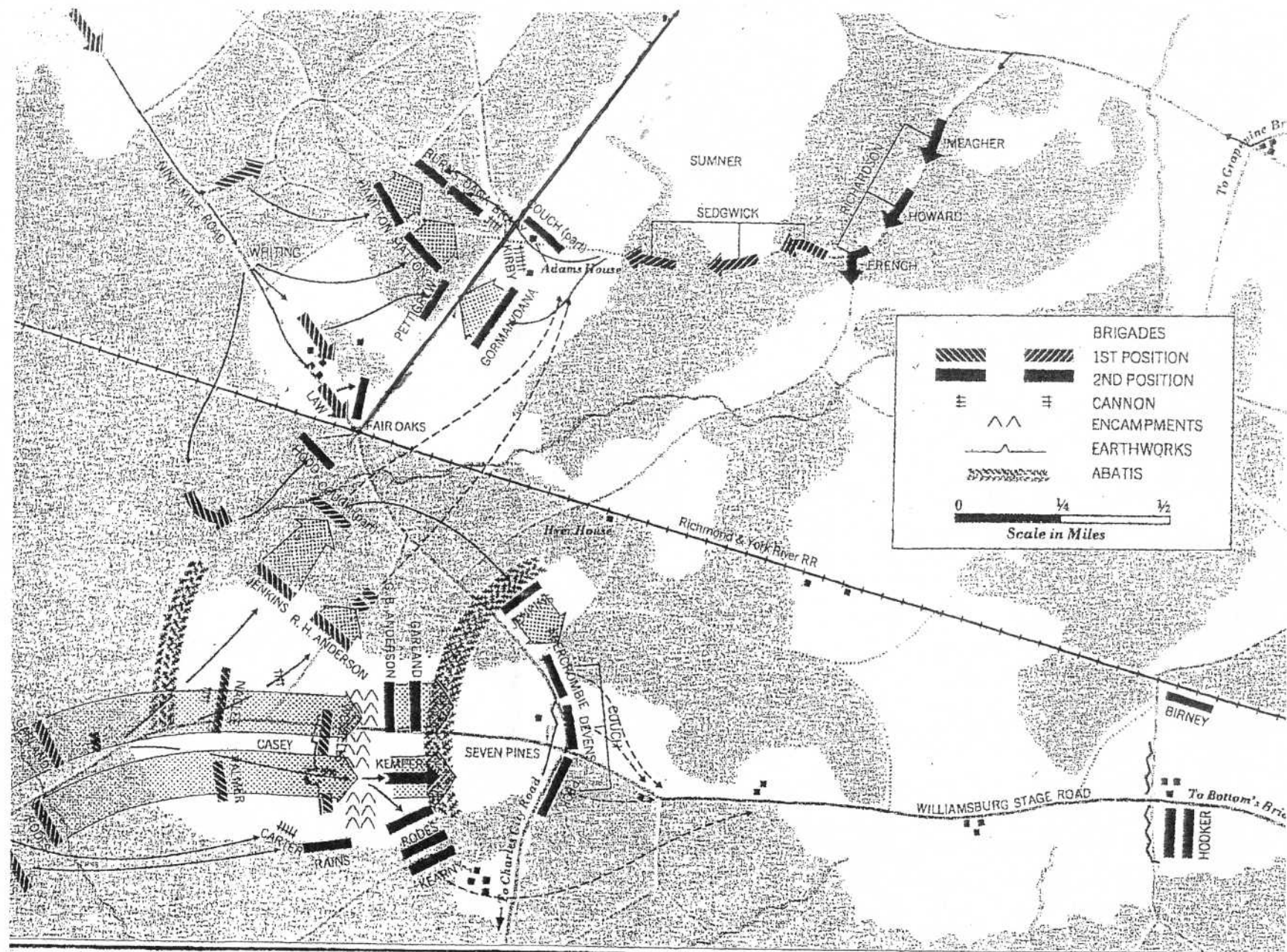
Michael Snyder

10-13-09

Seven Pines + Fair Oaks







The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

November 2009



Round Table Business

On October 13, 2009, President Joe Schaeffer called to order the October meeting of the First Defenders Round Table with 61 members and guests in attendance. Vice President Rob Marks offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Rob shared comments about meeting Patrick Falci at an Allentown Round Table program. Falci portrayed Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill in the film *Gettysburg*.

Don Stripling, who could not be present, sent an e-mail updating the Adopt-a-Position at Gettysburg initiative. Four members had signed on to this worthy effort.

Membership Report

Pat Christ, Membership Chairperson, reported that 84 members had renewed their round table memberships by the meeting's date. If you have not paid your 2009-2010 dues, please contact Pat. The cost of membership remains at \$20.00. An exciting year has already begun, and no one should miss out on the great programs that have been planned.

Treasurer's Report

Arlan Christ's report began with a balance from September 8, 2009, of \$2,920.09. Receipts from the October meeting totaled \$2,304.00 bringing a new balance of \$5,224.09. Expenses incurred totaled \$1,565.91 leaving a balance of \$3,658.18. The preservation fund had a total of \$151.00.

Book Raffle/Preservation

Tom Tate reports the following:

When it was announced that there was an \$8.82 return on every dollar donated to CWPT to buy land on the 3rd Winchester Battlefield (September 19, 1864), Bill Lord made a motion to send \$50.00 from our present preservation fund. Members fell all over themselves to second the motion. So, after our October meeting and the sending of the \$50.00, our preservation fund stands, after only two months, at \$247.00. Thanks to you all for such great support to the vitally important work of battlefield preservation.

Our members are to be thanked for the great turnout of donated books. I am going to have to get a mule or some other beast of burden to carry them all home. Seriously, thanks for your donations; they keep our expenses down to next-to-nothing and make it possible for us to be among the most generous of round tables when it comes to preservation.

Editor's note Maybe Ed Ewing has a CW ambulance or wagon (horses optional) to donate for book-toting! We should all keep in mind that Tom is truly the impetus for this endeavor. He helps save battlefield lands and helps us improve our knowledge of the CW through reading. Tom inspires us and works hard each month for this worthy cause.

Field Trip for 2010

Dave Fox and Roger Cotterill have already been busy working on a field trip for June of 2010. One possibility would take us to Harrisonburg, VA, to study the Battle of New Market, Cross Keys and Port Republic. A banquet with speaker would be held in Harrisonburg. Cost is expected to be in the area of \$180 per person.

Another possibility for an overnight trip would be in the Culpeper/Brandy Station/Cedar Mountain area. Dave and Roger would appreciate any thoughts on the June trip.

Ed's Artifacts

In keeping with the topic for the evening's program, Ed Ewing brought photos and CDV's of Pennsylvania soldiers who fought at Seven Pines. He informed us that the artifacts he brought, in addition to the CDV's, were from before the Seven Days' battle. CDV's cost \$1.00 for 12 photos during the war and usually identified who took the photographs. As always, thanks to Ed for sharing his collection with us.

WANTED!

Webmaster

We are looking for a webmaster to design a website for our Round Table. If you or someone you are aware of would be interested in this job, please contact Joe Schaeffer or any board member as soon as possible. We need to get the word out about our organization. This is not a paid position.

October's Program

Michael Snyder, current president of the Pottstown Historical Society and music teacher in the Pottstown School District, gave a comprehensive program detailing the Battle of Seven Pines which occurred May 31-June 1, 1863, on the Virginia Peninsula as McClellan intended to attack Richmond. After hearing the details of the battle, the speaker concluded that it was a tactical draw and of no strategic importance. It is a compelling study of Longstreet's personality, of flank and frontal assaults, of citizen soldiers, and of what the war was going to turn into. Also Joe Johnston's military career had ended bringing to the stage Robert E. Lee. This was an insightful and informative presentation.

Barbara's Trivia for November

1. What was the first pitched battle west of the Mississippi River?
2. What is another name for the Battle of Pea Ridge?
3. Name one of the commanders, either Union or Confederate, of the Battle of Pea Ridge?

Honoring Lincoln's 200th Anniversary



Meeting General Sheridan for the first time, Lincoln said, "General Sheridan, when this peculiar war began, I thought a cavalryman should be at least six feet four inches high." But still holding Sheridan's hand in his earnest grasp and looking down on the little General, he added, "I have changed my mind—five feet four will do in a pinch." Sheridan measured five feet four and a half.

Quotable

From Barbara Shafer—

Van Dorn refuted suffering a loss saying, "I was not defeated, but only foiled in my intentions. I am yet sanguine of success, and will not cease to repeat my blows whenever the opportunity is offered."—in his report to Judah Benjamin after the Battle of Pea Ridge

From Mike Strauss—

Col. Halbert E. Paine was in occupied Baton Rouge, LA, serving under Gen. Thomas Williams. On August 3, 1862, his thoughts were "that all the high hopes of gallant military service cherished by the officers of the 4th Wisconsin, 6th Michigan, and 21st Indiana regiments have been dashed to earth by the absurd blunder of government which placed us under an imbecile drunken malignant shallow cowardly traitorous incompetent blockhead." (Mike noted the colonel's facility with words and regretted that we have no record of his thoughts on Gen. Williams' replacement, Gen. Benjamin Butler! Indeed...)



Victorian Poetry *Whitman*

Do you have a favorite poem from the Civil War era? The Victorians' use and appreciation of the language is evident in the writing of the period from letters home to generals' battle reports. Please share something that you like with our membership.

Do Not Weep, Maiden, For War is Kind By Stephen Crane

Do not weep, maiden, for war is kind.
Because your lover threw wild hands toward the sky
And the affrighted steed ran on alone,
Do not weep.
War is kind.

Hoarse, booming drums of the regiment,
Little souls who thirst for fight,
These men were born to drill and die.
The unexplained glory flies above them,
Great is the battle-god, great, and his kingdom—
A field where a thousand corpses lie.

Do not weep, babe, for war is kind.
Because your father tumbled in the yellow trenches,
Raged at his breast, gulped and died,
Do not weep.
War is kind.

Swift blazing flag of the regiment,
Eagle with crest of red and gold,
These men were born to drill and die.
Point for them the virtue of slaughter,
Make plain to them the excellence of killing
And a field where a thousand corpses lie.

Mother whose heart hung humble as a button
On the bright splendid shroud of your son,
Do not weep.
War is kind.

—submitted by Linda Zeiber

When I Was Small, A Woman Died By Emily Dickinson

When I was small, a woman died.
To-day her only boy
Went up from the Potomac,
His face all victory.

To look at her; how slowly
The seasons must have turned
Till bullets clapt an angle,
And he passed quickly round!

If pride shall be in Paradise
I never can decide;
Of their imperial conduct,
No person testified.

But proud in apparition,
That woman and her boy
Pass back and forth before my brain,
As ever in the sky.

--submitted by Barbara Shafer

November 10, 2009 Meeting

November's Program: Mike Gabriel and Ron Rhein, The Battle of Pea Ridge

On March 7-8, 1862 Major General Samuel Curtis's Army of the Southwest fought Earl Van Dorn's larger Confederate force near Pea Ridge, Arkansas. Sometimes called "The Confederate High Watermark" in the Trans-Mississippi, the battle was the culmination of one of the Civil War's few winter campaigns. By the time this important, but often forgotten engagement ended, Curtis had permanently secured Missouri for the Union, occupied part of Arkansas, and freed up thousands of Northern soldiers for operations in the Mississippi Valley. Come here Ron and Mike discuss this battle that also featured the only militia army of the Civil War.

Preview of December's Meeting and Ed Bearss

On December 8th we all have the opportunity to claim an early Christmas present by coming to the round table and listening to Ed Bearss, the rock star of Civil War history. Ed was born in June 1923 in Billings, MT, and grew up with kerosene lamps and horse-drawn plows. He remembers hearing first-hand Civil War stories told by the hometown veteran "Grandpa" Henderson.

He joined the Marines during World War II. Following his service in the war, he earned degrees at Georgetown and Indiana Universities. He then joined the National Park Service and devoted himself to the study of the Civil War. He is currently the Chief Historian Emeritus for the Park Service.

If you have never taken a battlefield tour with Ed or been privileged to hear him speak, you definitely don't want to miss our December meeting. Mark your calendar now!

Reservations for the November 10th Meeting

Dinner selections for the November meeting are **Grilled Marinated Chicken Romano; Broiled Haddock in garlic clam sauce; Stuffed Shells with spinach tomato cream sauce.** The price is \$20.00 for meals. Please call in your reservation and menu selection at 610.683.4384 no later than Monday, October 5, 2009. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. ***NOTE: Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. The Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation.

2009-2010 Program Schedule

December 8, 2009:	Ed Bearss, Jackson's Valley Campaign of 1862
January 12, 2010:	Round Table Discussion: Davis's Generals
February 9, 2010:	Dave Fox, Saltville
March 9, 2010:	Chris Heisey, Civil War Photography and Preservation
April 13, 2010:	Barnet Schecter, "The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America"
May 11, 2010:	Dave Sweigert, Wheatfield at Gettysburg and John Rutter Brooke and the 53 rd PA

Upcoming program presentations feature speakers who have written books. The following are titles that you may want to acquire prior to the meetings:

November—Michael Gabriel— *Major General Richard Montgomery: The Making of an American Hero* and *Quebec During the American Invasion*

December—Edwin C. Bearss— *Field of Honor* and numerous other books that he co-authored

March 2010—Chris Heisey— *Gettysburg, this Hallowed Ground*

April 2010—Barnet Schecter— *The Battle for New York: The City at the Heart of the American Revolution* and *The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America*

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, 610.678.1168 or zeibers@comcast.net



The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

December 2009



***Famed Historian and Battlefield Guide Ed Bearss Is Keynote Speaker
for December's Meeting***

Give yourself an early Christmas present by attending this once-in-a-lifetime event. Details about reservations are found at the end of the newsletter.

Round Table Business

On November 10, 2009, President Joe Schaeffer called to order the October meeting of the First Defenders Round Table with 45 members and guests in attendance. Vice President Rob Marks offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Joe gave a moving tribute to veterans marking of Veterans' Day on the 11th of November. He discussed the origin of the commemoration and read quotes from Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

Treasurer's Report

Arlan Christ was not present but filed a report that began with a balance from October 13, 2009, of \$3,658.18. Receipts from the October meeting totaled \$1,886.00 bringing a new balance of \$5,544.18. Expenses incurred totaled \$1,219.57 leaving a balance of \$4,324.61. The preservation fund had a total of \$247.00.

Book Raffle/Preservation

Tom Tate reported the following:

The fifty dollars that the membership authorized we send to CWPT for land on the 3rd Winchester Battlefield was sent on to them last month following the October meeting. Each of those dollars expanded into \$8.80. We got recognition of the donation, but, despite my calling their attention to the fact that the donation was made by our Roundtable, only I was thanked. I wrote again to point this out but have not had a reply. Anyway, the money was put to good use.

I have two books by Ed Bearss for next month's raffle. In October we raised another \$128.00 for preservation, and the total so far for the year is \$375.00. Our members continue to donate books at a high volume.

Field Trip for 2010

Dave Fox reiterated field trip information for June of 2010. One possibility would take us to Harrisonburg, VA, to study the Battle of New Market, Cross Keys and Port Republic. A banquet with speaker would be held in Harrisonburg. Cost is expected to be in the area of \$180 per person.

Another possibility for an overnight trip would be in the Culpeper/Brandy Station/Cedar Mountain area. Dave and Roger would appreciate any thoughts on the June trip.

Ed's Artifacts

Ed Ewing's' always fascinating table of artifacts included bullets from Pea Ridge, the battle we learned of during the evening's program. He brought two rifles of the type that were used there. Ed told us that Western armies were poorly armed. The Model 1840 was a stop gap measure in arms. They were made at the Springfield Armory and had to

be converted from flintlocks to percussions. The 69 cal. smoothbore was used by Southern militia.

The second rifle on display was an 1841 54 cal. musket, a lightweight Mississippi rifle used by Jefferson Davis. 1,000 of these were made in the Palmetto Arsenal, and today are very valuable. Various companies made Mississippi rifles. As always, thanks, Ed, for sharing your vast collection and your knowledge each month.

November's Program

Past President Mike Gabriel and past Vice President Ron Rhein brought to life still another Western program with their comprehensive and fascinating presentation on the Battle of Pea Ridge, March 7 & 8, 1862, located in the NW corner of Arkansas and named for the wild peas that grew in the area. They described the battle as a tremendous Union victory where today the field is well-preserved and has only 2 monuments on it.

Ron and Mike took us through the battle in great detail and included the stories of 4 Medals of Honor that were won there. The battle has been referred to as the High Water Mark of the Confederacy in the Trans-Mississippi area. It left Missouri in Union control as well as much of Arkansas which permanently altered the strategic situation in the West. Ron and Mike never disappoint us. This was a tremendous study in the Western theater.

Honoring Lincoln's 200th Anniversary



During the war, a gentleman asked Lincoln to give him a pass through Federal lines in order to visit Richmond. "I should be very happy to oblige you," said the President, "if my passes were respected; but the fact is, within the past two years I have given passes to Richmond to two hundred and fifty thousand men, and no one has got there yet."

From Barbara Shafer—

Stonewall Jackson wrote to a staff member, "If this Valley is lost, Virginia is lost."

Victorian Poetry

Christmas Bells

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Til, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

--submitted by Barbara Shafer

Stonewall Jackson's Way by John Williamson Palmer

Come, stack arms, men. Pile on the rails
Stir up the camp-fire bright;
No matter if the canteen fails,
We'll make a roaring night.
Here Shenandoah brawls along,
There burly Blue Ridge echoes strong
To swell the brigade's rousing song
Of "Stonewall Jackson's way."

We see him now--the old slouched hat
Cocked o'er his eye askew--
The shrewd, dry smile--the speech so pat--
So calm, so blunt, so true.
The "Blue-Light Elder" knows 'em well--
Says he, "That's Banks; he's fond of shell--
Lord save his soul! we'll give him" well,
That's "Stonewall Jackson's way."

Silence! ground arms! kneel all! caps off!
Old Blue Light's going to pray
Strangle the fool that dares to scoff;
Attention: it's his way!
Appealing from his native sod,
In forma pauperis to God--
"Lay bare thine arm; stretch forth thy rod;
Amen." That's "Stonewall's way."

He's in the saddle now! Fall in!
Steady, the whole brigade!
Hill's at the ford, cut off! He'll win
His way out, ball and blade.
What matter if our shoes are worn?
What matter if our feet are torn?
"Quick step--we're with him ere the dawn.!"
That's "Stonewall Jackson's way."

The sun's bright glances rout the mists
Of morning, and, by George!
There's Longstreet struggling in the lists,
Hemmed in an ugly gorge--
Pope and his Yankees whipped before--
"Bayonet and grape!" hear Stonewall roar,
"Charge, Stuart! Pay off Ashby's score
In Stonewall Jackson's way

Ah, maiden! wait and watch and yearn
For news of Stonewall's band!
Ah, widow! read with eyes that burn
That ring upon thy hand!
Ah, wife! sew on, pray on, hope on,
Thy life shall not be all forlorn--
The foe had better ne'er been born,
That gets in Stonewall's way.

---Note: A heroic poem showing Jackson as one of us, an ordinary-looking man with a quirky religious fanaticism and yet with a charismatic power to lead men in battle. In life, Jackson was quarrelsome, secretive, and more eccentric than most. But he was an aggressive and dauntless fighter.
--submitted by Linda Zeiber

Upcoming Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the CW

On October 6, 2009, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission issued a press release announcing details of a statewide commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. These details include traveling exhibits, special events county by county, and a "content-rich" Web site. It sounds like an exciting year ahead for Civil-War history. You can visit the website at www.PACivilWar150.com.

December 8, 2009 Meeting An Evening with Ed Bearss

Ed Bearss is our December speaker, and we are truly honored to have him attend our roundtable. Ed has reached the pinnacle of respect among professionals and amateurs alike in the telling of the story of the American Civil War.

Ed was born in June 1923 in Billings, MT, and grew up with kerosene lamps and horse-drawn plows. He remembers hearing first-hand Civil War stories told by the hometown veteran "Grandpa" Henderson.

He joined the Marines during World War II. Following his service in the war, he earned degrees at Georgetown and Indiana Universities. He then joined the National Park Service and devoted himself to the study of the Civil War. He is currently the Chief Historian Emeritus for the Park Service.

If you have never taken a battlefield tour with Ed or been privileged to hear him speak, you definitely don't want to miss our December meeting. Mark your calendar now! Ed will be discussing Jackson's Valley Campaign of 1862. We are hoping that Ed will be

available from 5:30 to 6:30 to sign autographs, but are not able to confirm this at this point. Regardless, let's try to exceed attendance which was at an all-time high of 95 when Brian Pohanka spoke about the Civil War and Hollywood!

Reservations for the December 8, 2009, Meeting:

Dinner selections for the November meeting are **Yankee Pot Roast with filling; Roasted Turkey with gravy; Grilled Strawberry Bourbon Salmon**. The price is \$20.00 for meals. Please call in your reservation and menu selection at 610.683.4384 no later than Monday, November 30, 2009. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. ***NOTE: Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. The Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation.

FYI

A reminder to all members: All round table meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Reservations for meals are always due no later than the Monday one week prior to the meeting date. These scheduled days never vary.

2009-2010 Program Schedule

January 12, 2010:	Round Table Discussion: Davis's Generals
February 9, 2010:	Dave Fox; Saltville
March 9, 2010:	Chris Heisey, Civil War Photography and Preservation
April 13, 2010:	Barnet Schechter, "The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America"
May 11, 2010:	Dave Sweigert, Wheatfield at Gettysburg and John Rutter Brooke and the 53 rd PA

Upcoming program presentations feature speakers who have written books. The following are titles that you may want to acquire prior to the meetings:

December—Edwin C. Bearss—*Field of Honor* and numerous other books that he co-authored

March 2010—Chris Heisey—*Gettysburg, this Hallowed Ground*

April 2010—Barnet Schechter—*The Battle for New York: The City at the Heart of the American Revolution* and *The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America*

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, 610.678.1168 or zeibers@comcast.net



Ed Turkey
Errol Pot Roast

610-944 0783 John Mc

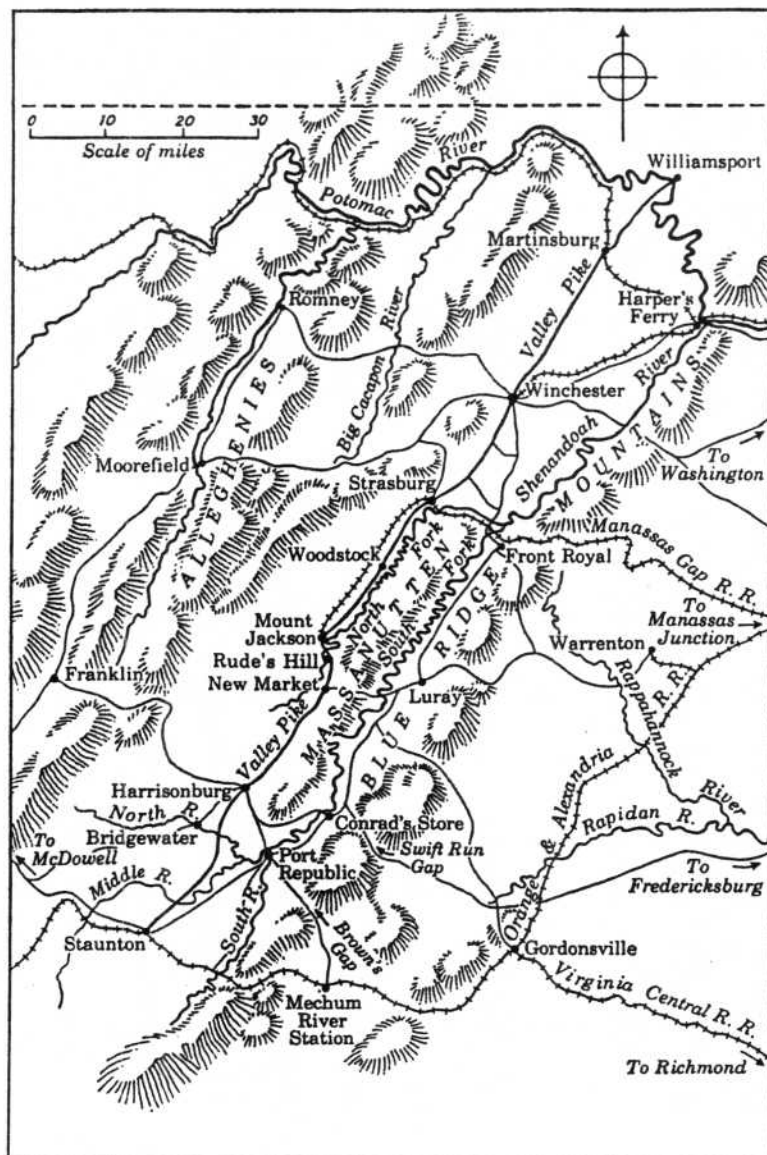
STONEWALL IN THE VALLEY

ate postwar research, became
ation about the Valley Cam-

gment, Jackson turned to a
od deal of his time recently.

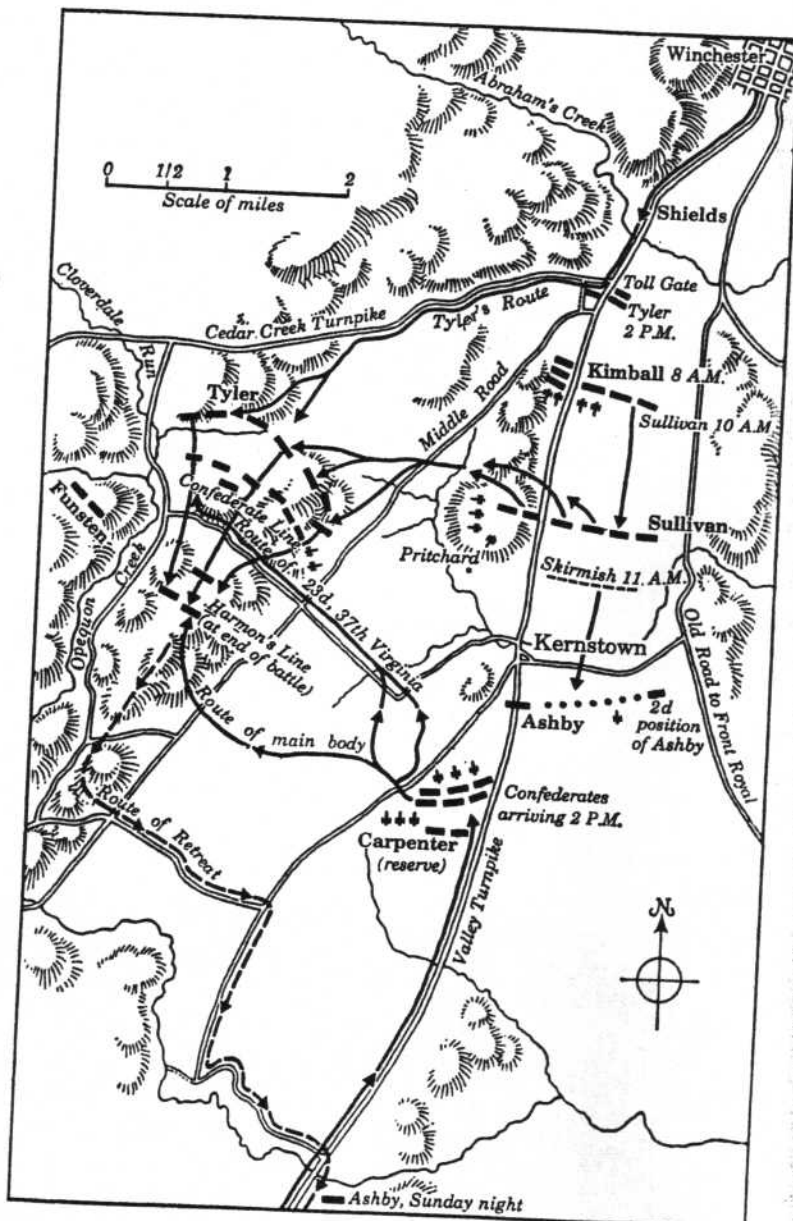
keep Banks too busy to sup-
son was giving himself a thor-
y. Unfolding his maps, Stone-
alley Pike through Strasburg
South of this point, the Pike
et, Harrisonburg, and Staun-
ailroad tied the Valley with
the Manassas Gap bridge at
as the only rail link open to
lacked a spur to Mount Jack-
plies were piling up there.
n warehouse, and its defense
ers.

problem. East of Strasburg a
alled Massanutten Mountain
ecipitously and surged up the
nce the Shenandoah corridor
ay Valley between Massanut-
id the Shenandoah Valley be-
enies. This mountain divider
of Jackson's district, and he
It was always there to trouble
ne way across: between New
village of Luray, in the Luray
nly pass in the rugged moun-
ficulties posed by this barrier
ultaneously retreat up both
ed into the Luray Valley from
lered the richer Shenandoah,
alley Pike to the enemy and
trails around Luray. On the
ft the Luray region unguarded
ations with Johnston. A Fed-
ould easily deny Jackson the



(1)

THE VALLEY



4. BATTLE OF KERNSTOWN, MARCH 23, 1862.
Redrawing of map prepared under the direction of Jedediah Hotchkiss
for William Allan's *History of the Campaign of General T. J. (Stonewall) Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley*.

(2)

KERNSTOWN

Ashby was ordered to divide his cavalry, take half to the left to cover Jackson's flanks. The other half would occupy the Federals east of the line. Burks's brigade formed behind Ashby. Fulkerson's brigade was to seize the vital crossroads. A sweep around the Union right; Garnett's Stonewall Brigade minus its largest regiment (the 5th Virginia), which formed with Burks's brigade, would concentrate near Burks, then shift to the left. Hurrying west, Jackson passed Joe Carr's brigade, fired one of their "alleged cannons" and sent them fully into an old barn stuffed with Federal supplies. "Good," cried Old Jack, clapping his hands.

Shortly after 3:30 P.M. Fulkerson sent his brigade of Federal artillery from Pritchard's Hill to the front. They surrounded them, and the Southerners knew they were in a bad way. Faces stiffened and breath grew short. The men on the well-worn decks and fumbled for neglect. Along with the Rockbridge Artillery were the 1st and 2nd Virginia, a 17-year-old, Ed Moore, who had joined the army on Monday. He came from Washington County. He tried to shelter him while his older brother was killed. He had tolerated this haven for as long as he could, paying no attention to his professors, but now he was in a bad way. He had been delighted with his first experience of the battery was wonderful. Now he was in a bad way. The concussion from an enemy's shot made his knees tremble: "We began to feel that we were in a bad way, weakening effect it had on the stomach."

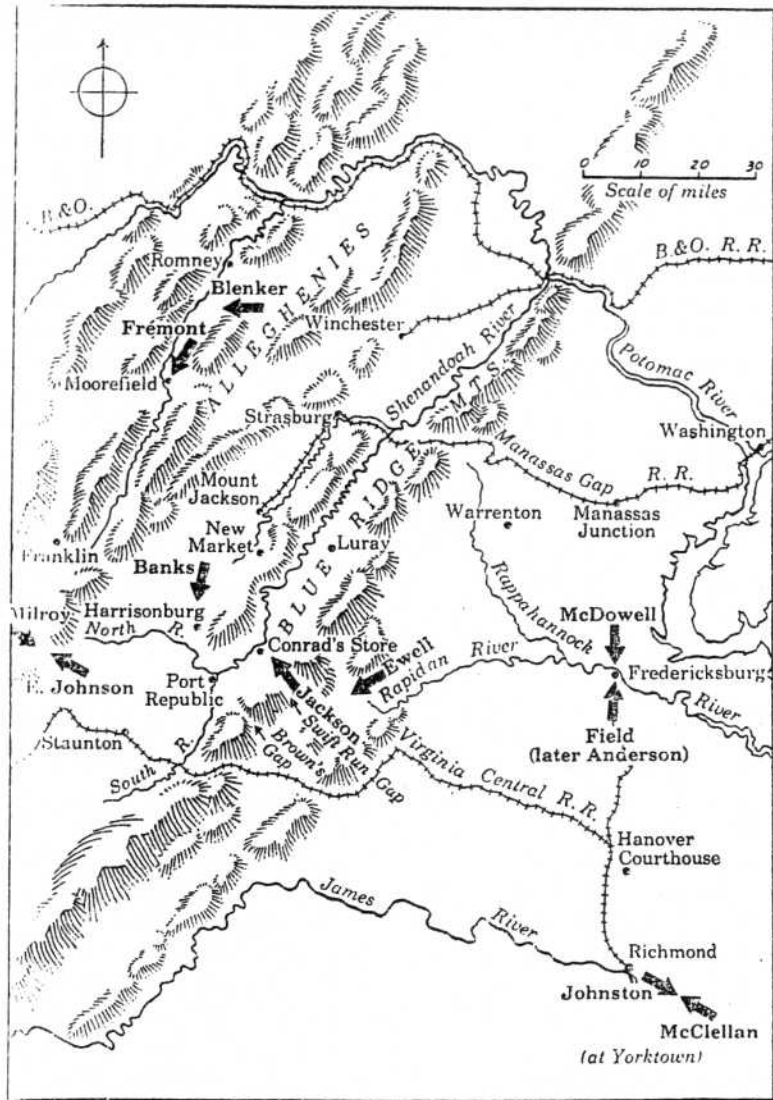
Stomachs calm or trembling, the men began to go wrong. Fulkerson's brigade discovered the enemy as a storm of shot and shells. Jackson muddled the advance. Garnett, one order directing him—or to aid Fulkerson with only one regiment to throw his entire force into the battle. He went ahead with the 33d Virginia. He so ordered and summoned his rear regiment. Jackson, unfortunately, had already

STONEWALL IN THE VALLEY

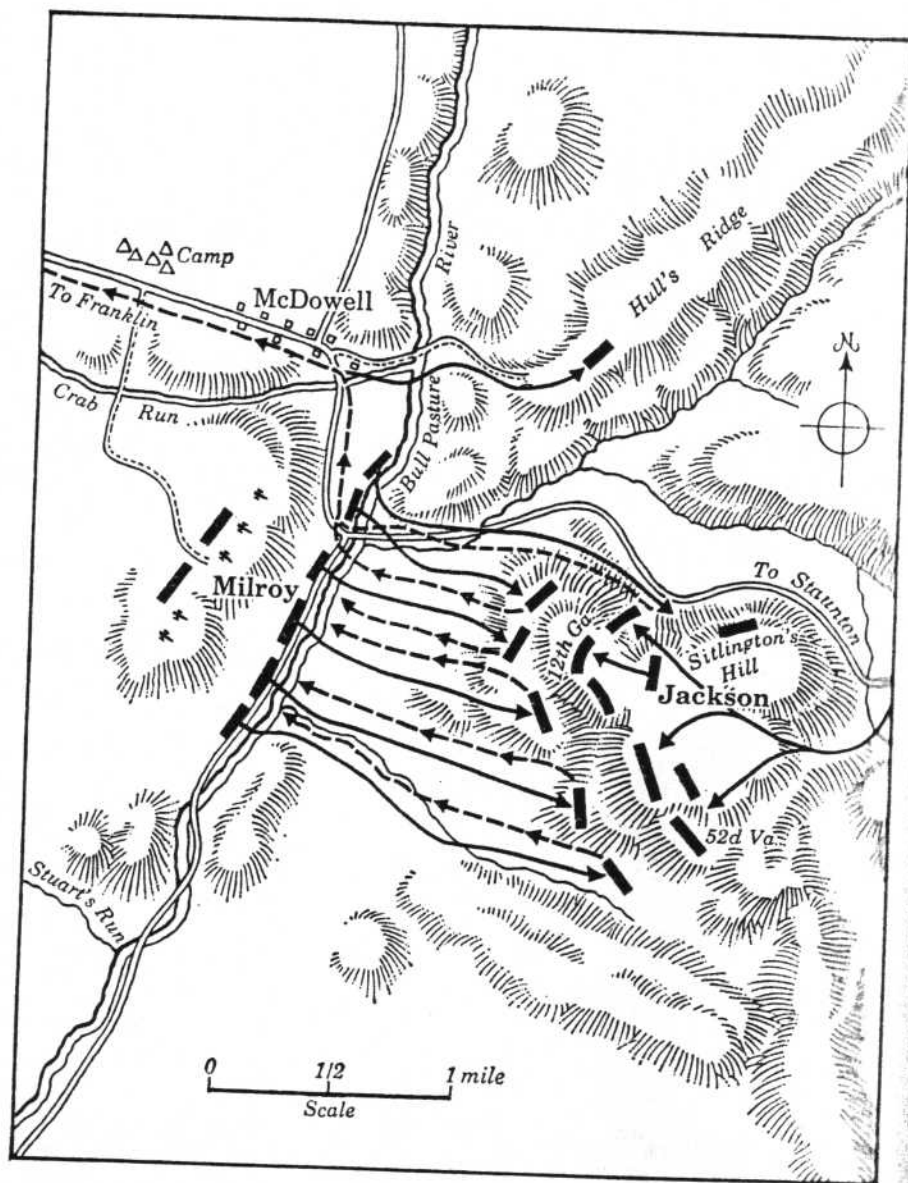
ground forward fifteen miles during the Peninsular War siege. There he laid the rebel garrison which put on a false front and laid siege to the city. The delay was at Yorktown, and the main armies faced each other southeast of Richmond. McClellan did not surprise Jackson; he remembered his staff: "McClellan lacks nerve." But McClellan did have 100,000 men and enough to dictate the pace at which Johnston had about 55,000 men and no grasp; Johnston was able to make a strategic retreat nearer the capital while McClellan was slowly assembling at Fredericksburg to join McClellan by an overland route from the north. McDowell's number one army had less than 12,000, even after Lee joined him.

Old Dominion was that of the Valley, it was at a rough equilibrium with the rebels at Swift Run. To drive Banks out of the Shenandoah valley might upset this balance. With 22,000 men at Harrisonburg, and with Jackson was relieved to note that the Union army (which had been ordered to join the Valley and had not joined) was not when the rebels retreated from the Valley. A 2,000- or 3,000-man vanguard of the Union army, 100 total when joined by Blenker's army, was sent back toward Staunton and threatened to restore the balance.

invinced him there were at least
across Virginia; perhaps half that
sed them. Such odds could only be
ackson and Ewell led the only mo-
iston, Field, and Edward Johnson
powerful Union forces. The war had
cular movement, only Jackson, with
Valley Campaign that Jackson had



3 GENERAL SITUATION, APRIL 30, 1862.



4. ACTION AT McDOWELL, MAY 8, 1862.
Redrawing of map prepared under the direction of Jedediah Hotchkiss
for William Allan's *History of the Campaign of General T. J. (Stonewall) Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley*.

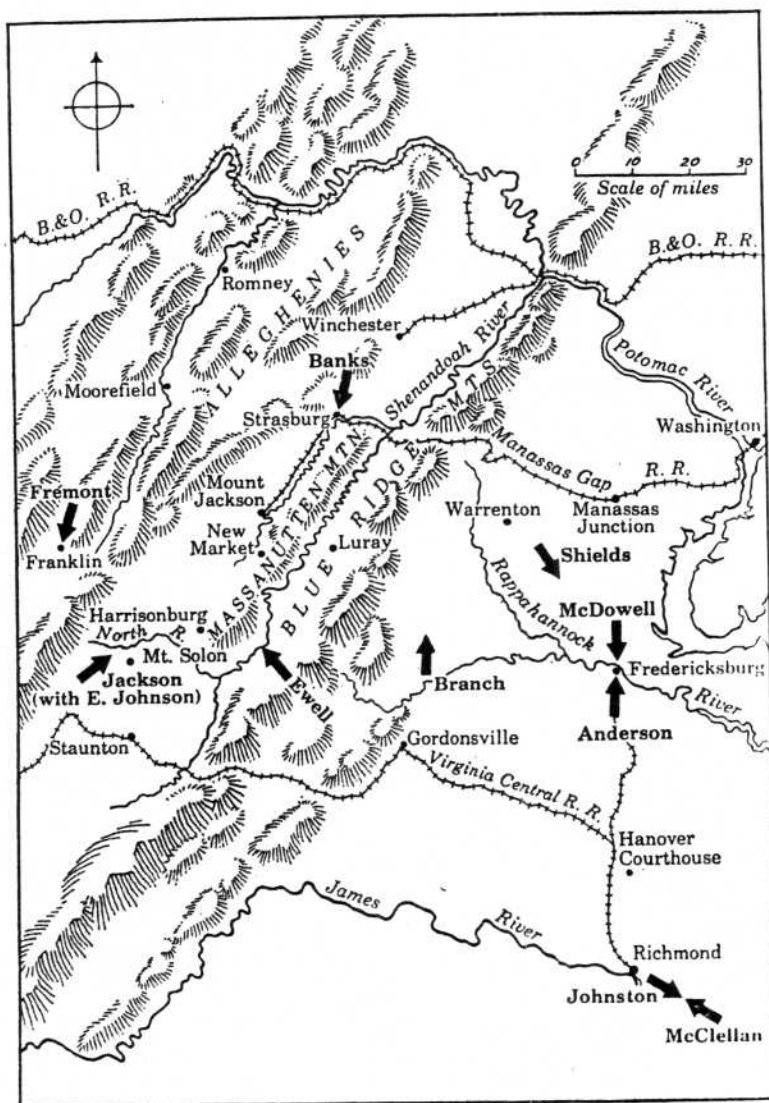
INTO THE MOUNTAINS

were standing, formed p
About a mile away (ar
place called McDowell,
camps lay around McI
parallel ridge. The rel
decimated Milroy's cam
proach to the rebel h
and Hotchkiss had ju
Storming the Federal li
rested on the west bar
The bridge across that
which snaked down Bu
just in front of Norther

Jackson fanned his s
attack and sent Hotch
Sitlington's Hill. In th
some miles to the rea
question. Old Jack left
staff at the base of Bul

Johnson was trouble
of Sitlington's Hill wa
the enemy. The ends
offered good defensiv
vulnerable from seve
12th Georgia in this
58th Virginia. To the
the 44th's right rear
Hill, the only route c
25th and 31st Virgini
the slopes of Sitlinto
both armies were alre

About 4:30 P.M.
backed their gun car
and began hammerin
the right scampered
blue regiments sma
quickly had to emp
bolster the 44th and
far right commandir



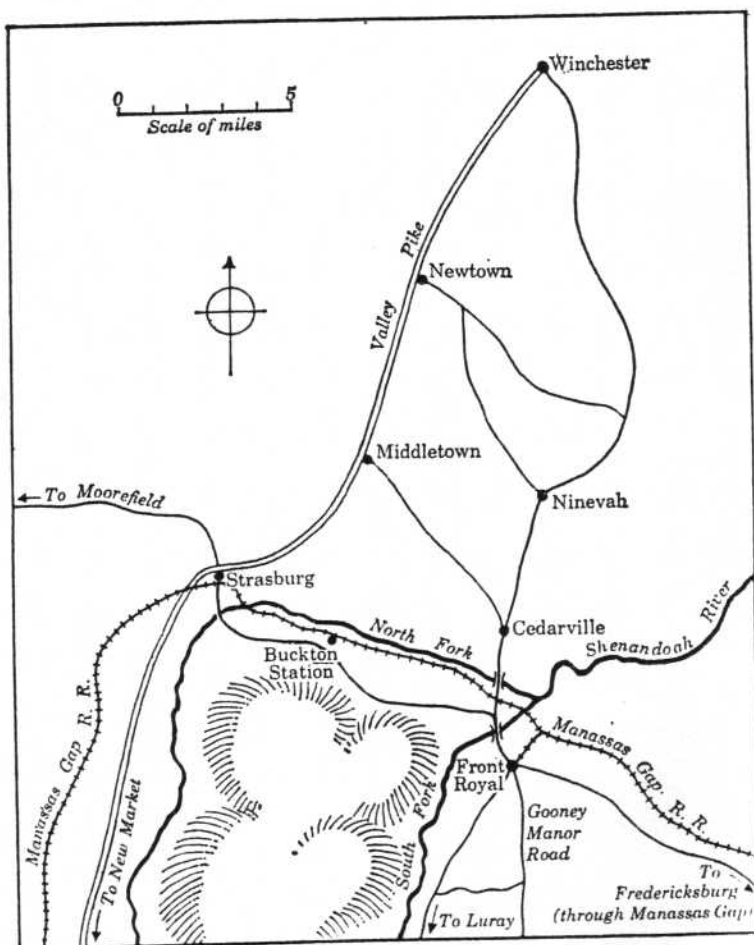
5 GENERAL SITUATION, MAY 18, 1862.

DOWN THE VALLEY

Jackson and Ewell suddenly sat down and committed a classic blunder: the army was dispersed in four parts (the detachments of Shields, and McDowell) over a wide area when the forces of Jackson, Johnson, and Ewell, of 20,000 men, were within three days of the anterior lines within the arc of the Union. The forces were dazzling. But to exploit this situation must be effected and a blow spearheaded a drive from Fredericksburg to Richmond.

Robert E. Lee also knew the future was determined during the next week, and he wrote a letter (dated May 16) which Jackson and Ewell's arrival. Lee had written under the impression that several gunboats had bombarded Confederate lines outside Richmond. The enemy might return. Lee gave Jackson this notion of the importance of stopping what was the Valley from moving to Fredericksburg. Then came the crux of his message: "A successful blow struck at [Banks] will not prevent, his moving. . . . What you must do against Banks do it speedily and if successful, move forward the Potomac, and create the impression that you design threatening that city. In other words, yet Johnston's recent tirade at Richmond constrained Lee to add a doubt. . . . not, in any demonstration you may make, of the fact that it may become necessary to support of General Johnston, and hold on so if required."⁶

Jackson handed this letter to Ewell, concerning Banks with pleasure. Routing the army, bringing the recall of Shields and would be detachments from the Shenandoah. But Jackson and Ewell could not hit and there was no drive from Fredericksburg. With Shields gone, Banks was isolated. Now was the time



6 JACKSON'S STRATEGIC TRIANGLE, MAY 24, 1862.

THREE DAYS OF RUNNING BATTLE

Such a move would open the way for Royal and Manassas Gap; he could see Confederates were a good distance down then slip across their rear to the east.

Another set of givens plagued Jackson. Northern strength at 21,000 or 22,000. Shields took only 6,000 of them to Front Royal. Shields, the casualties inflicted today, and it was conceivable that Banks still had Strasburg.²⁵ Stonewall thus erroneously strength was not much less than his own. He also suppose, quite correctly, that Union while the Valley Army was depleted. Ewell's forces were relatively fresh, but unknown. Taylor's brigade and Bradley Johnson fought well, although the sight of Major the enemy camp disturbed Jackson, experienced with Ewell's guns warned him this division would not be flawless. Jackson prudent to keep the Army together on discovered something of Banks's intentions.

From the constraints of geography, and strength, Jackson sought a plan. Two options the Valley Army could seek Banks by cutting angle to Strasburg. This would position on Front Royal or to pursue if Banks. Should Banks retire directly to Winchester, Confederates probably could not catch him on ground west of the city, ground which positions. Second, the Army could advance from Front Royal to Winchester and Banks there. Should the enemy bolt, however, the rebels would have to court and possibly not be able to overtake. If gained Manassas Gap. As the critical offense was to prevent the union of forces, this second course appeared frustrated in his analysis, Jackson renewed

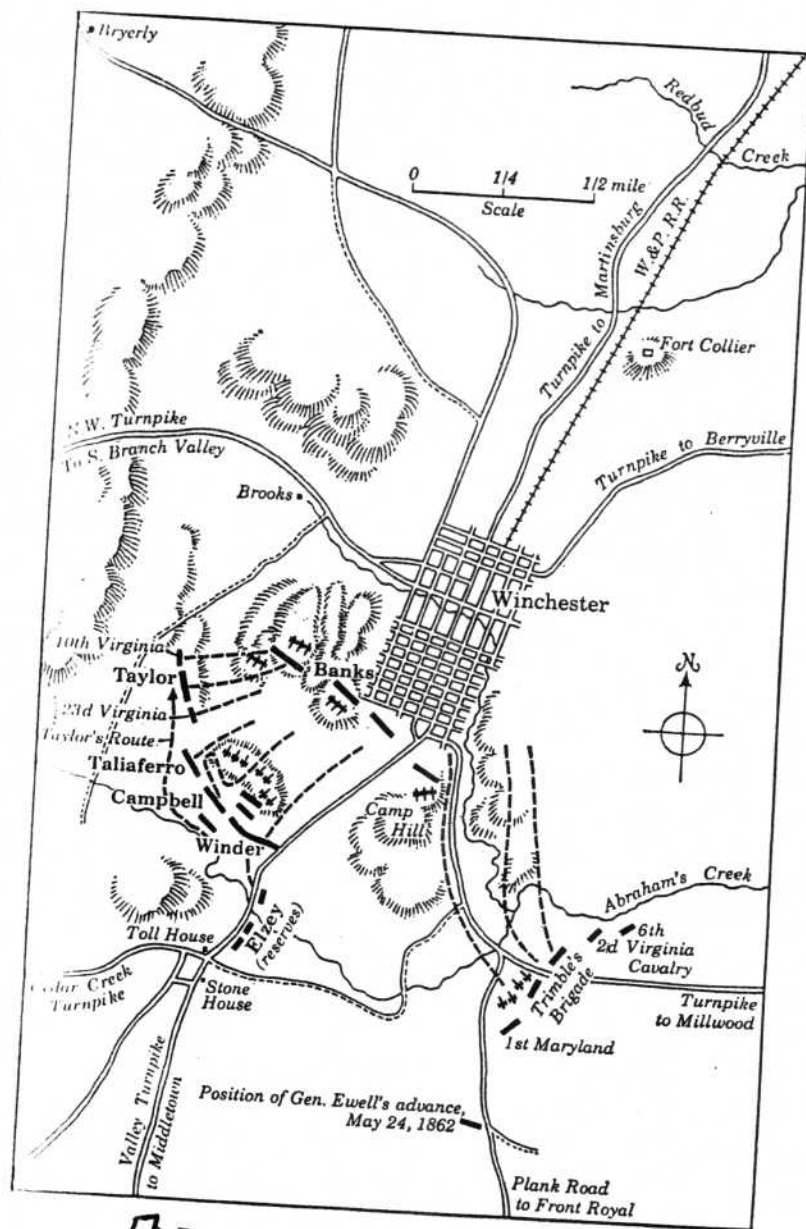
III

ver the Army for two hours. Ashby
gil, and Old Jack continued his watch
ie spent regretting that another Sabbath
iolate with battle, then he gave the word
was gathering over the wheatfields and
chester.⁸³ Stonewall determined to use
ilence on his troops.⁸⁴ A mute shadow,

ackson feared took form west of Win-
est) of the Pike. One hill was four hun-
ain line and commanded the road. "You
as Jackson's laconic order to Winder.⁸⁵
charged at once, meeting, curiously, no

ered to the summit and grasped the situa-
ks had stationed some units east of the
orce studded the hills west of the road,
to find it. From the Pike, the Federal line
o the northwest along these hills, but near
on curved forward somewhat, so that the
ded (from the left) the hill just taken by
ederal heights were 3,000 or 4,000 men
rouded by the mist, the enemy looked
ery began to plaster the rebel hill with
rove the Stonewall Brigade back from its

lley Pike where the morning mist thickened
could not see this cannon fire. He never-
d his attack. During the night, Jackson had
be area and the simple orders: "Attack at
eded no urging other than gunfire to
ders, and he closed on Winchester's south-
tire 1st Maryland of Colonel Johnson ahead
n groped through a dense fog until he lost
is on all sides of him. Unable to see twenty



7. BATTLE OF WINCHESTER, MAY 25, 1862.
The original of this map, prepared by Jedediah Hotchkiss in 1863, accompanied Jackson's official report of the Valley Campaign.

STONEWALL IN THE VALLEY

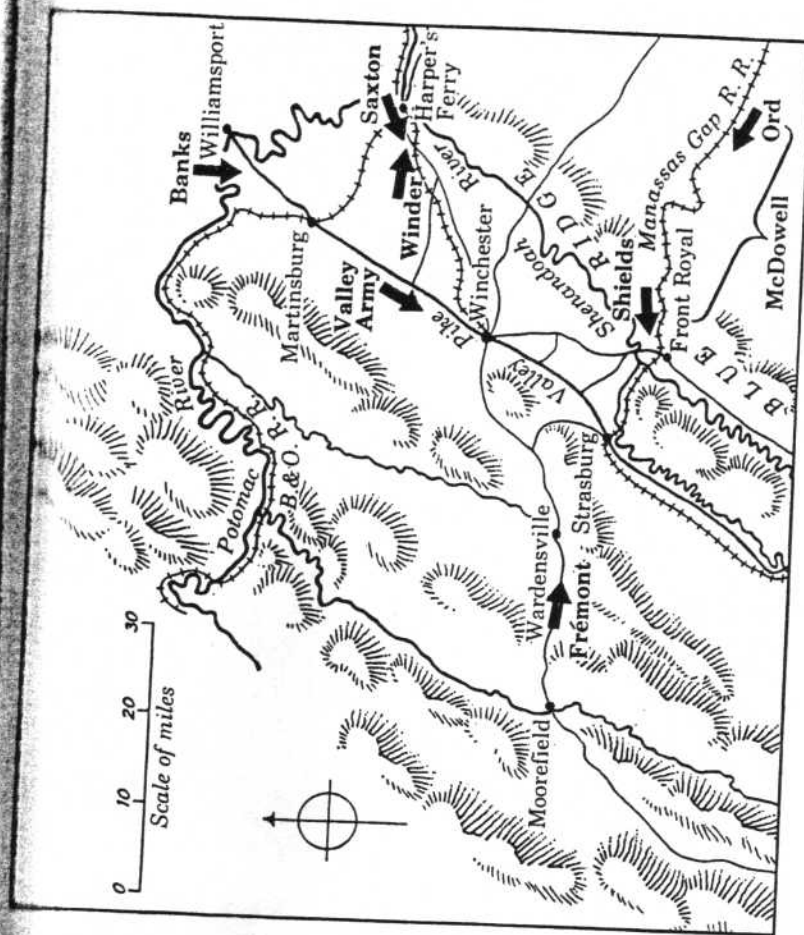
nap.† When he awoke, Alexander R. entative in the Confederate Congress ial aide on Jackson's staff, was draw- eral reached for the sketch, examined r away: "My hardest tasks at West ons, and I never could do anything in indeed, anybody else."

s and saw that they would break soon. resent, he pulled himself into an up- ler: "I want you to go to Richmond rcements. You can explain to them et as many men as can be spared, and go as soon as you can."

of the situation he must explain. This estion, but Boteler, a friend who had his resignation in February and to d his intentions the previous March, ice. Jackson shared as much as he t were probably planning to link up . Banks's resurrected army and the ould probably pursue as the Confed- inchester. Stonewall was confident he nd was equally confident of regaining mbition fired, he intimated plans for a ommand can be gotten up to 40,000 made beyond the Potomac which will mond and transfer this campaign from those of the Susquehanna."

uehanna flowed through central Penn- son askance. The General made no re- ed giving instructions to Boteler. The Charles Town, a few miles south of ould find a train waiting which would oteler was to continue from Winchester

al for Jackson during a time of crises. ive role he was to play a month later during d Richmond, a campaign that saw him fail in the Valley. See *infra*, note 57; Chapter ix C.



9. SITUATION IN THE LOWER VALLEY, MAY 31, 1862.

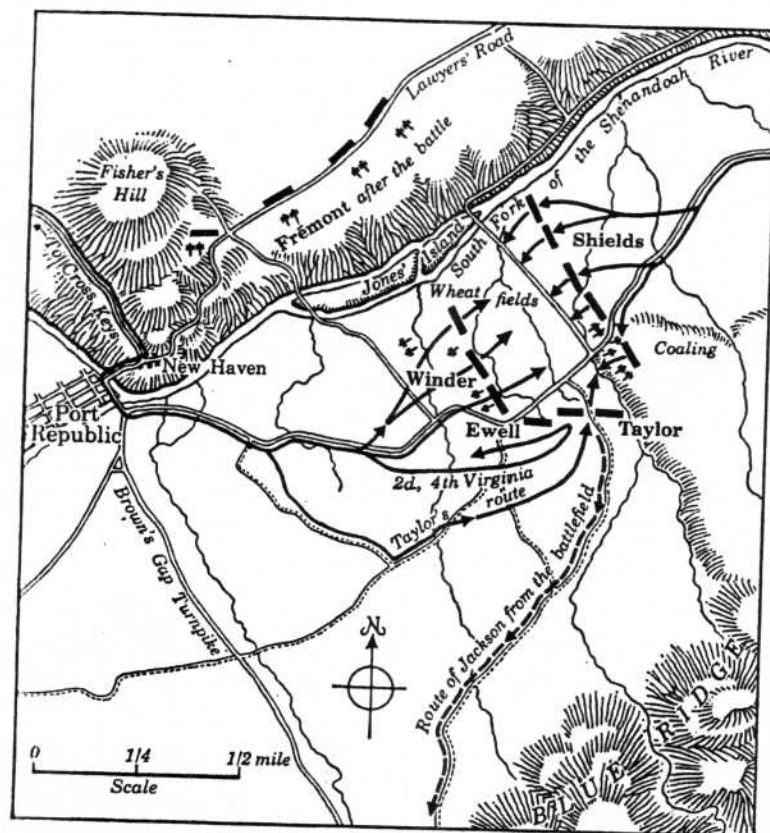
STONEWALL IN THE VALLEY

less than 500 men⁵⁹) continued to se stands of mountain laurel. The Vir- adred yards of the coaling and counted egiments of Union infantry supported oered to attack and knowing what had :reating, Colonel Allen of the 2d Vir- en forward to pick off enemy gunners, eranxious rebels spoiled his plan. Fed- l, firing grapeshot, a shell packed with ddled the Southerners.⁶⁰

was neutralized. The 5th and 27th Vir- halt in the wheatfields; Colonel Allen's Jackson that the 2d and 4th Virginia the deadly Union grapeshot. The 33d d the battle. Colonel Neff was lost, uty position and forced to rely on rumors

nce which the driver told me belonged to try, and from him I learned that the Sec- up the same road upon which I was then narch in that direction, expecting to meet some of his aides. [In fact Neff was head- ts in the direction of the coaling.] . . . I , half a mile farther, when I met several Virginia, who told me the regiments were egiment was ordered back to support Car- ow in the woods; there was sharp firing in ly ignorant of our position or that of the w what to do. I accordingly halted the regi- to ascertain, if possible, something of the

s was grim. All chance of a dual victory ealized that just defeating Shields would Army would have to be concentrated vas summoned to the front with his bri- Trimble to ease away from Frémont, t Republic, and join the battle. Unless



9 THE BATTLE OF PORT REPUBLIC, JUNE 9, 1862.
Redrawing of map prepared under the direction of Jedediah Hotchkiss for William Allan's *History of the Campaign of General T. J. (Stonewall) Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley*.

INTRODUCTION

James M. McPherson

When Edwin C. Bearss was growing up on a Montana ranch before World War II, he named cattle after Civil War battles and gave names of Civil War generals to the milk cows and their calves that roamed the ranch. His favorite milk cow was Antietam; one of her calves was Sharpsburg. Ed first encountered the Civil War when he was in sixth grade. He had earlier fallen in love with ancient history. And he seemed genetically programmed for a fascination with military history. A third cousin had received the Medal of Honor as a marine fighting against the Philippine insurrectionists. Ed's father, Omar Bearss, had been a Marine Corps officer in World War I. When Ed's parents rented a house in Billings so Ed could attend sixth grade there instead of in the one-room schoolhouse near the ranch, Ed found books about the Civil War in the house. He was forever hooked.

That was in 1934 and 1935. During the next several years, events in Europe and Asia built toward the conflicts that would erupt into World War II. Ed followed these events avidly. He acquired maps of Spain, China, and central Europe and moved flags across the maps to follow the advances and retreats of various armies. His knowledge of world geography and current events was extraordinary. In his junior year in high school he scored highest on a current events test in the entire state; the following year he did the same in U.S. history. His total recall of historical facts was even more impressive. Ed denies that he has a

photographic memory. "I can't scan a poem and quote it back to you." But he undoubtedly could do so if he was interested in poetry, for he admits that "anything I am interested in I never forget." Above all, he has never forgotten anything he has read about history or any feature of terrain he has seen on a map or walked over on the ground itself. It is these qualities of encyclopedic memory that make him a legendary tour guide of historical sites, especially battlefields.

I have been on many historical tours with Ed—not only of Civil War battlefields but also of Waterloo, the Somme, and World War II sites from the Normandy beaches to the Huertgen Forest and Remagen. I remember one occasion that illustrates his mastery of the detail of several wars. Ed and I were members of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission created by Congress in 1991 to survey the threats to Civil War battlefields and the opportunities to forestall these threats by land acquisitions, easements, and other means. The commission traveled to many Civil War battlefields, where Ed gave his patented tours, and we held hearings in nearby cities. We made our final site visit in 1993. Ed not only brought alive the battle that took place there in January 1865 but also described the hurricane that washed away part of the fort in the 1920s and the building of an airstrip during World War II that destroyed part of the remainder in such vivid detail that we were sure he had been there on all three occasions. The following day, as our bus rolled out of Wilmington for a tour of the Bentonville battlefield, we passed the battleship U.S.S. *North Carolina* tied up in the Cape Fear River. For the next 20 minutes Ed described all the actions in which the ship had participated in World War II, the battle stars she had won, and what she had done after the war before arriving in Wilmington to become a ship museum. As he finished this dramatic account, we passed the Moore's Creek National Battlefield. Without missing a beat, Ed shifted from 1944 to 1776 and told us the story of that patriot victory over the Loyalists.

Ed has experienced war firsthand. Six months after he graduated from high school the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Ed enlisted in the Marine Corps and in July 1942 shipped out for the South Pacific. On January 2, 1944, his unit attacked Japanese pillboxes on New Britain Island, where Ed was hit by several machine-gun bullets. At the risk of

their own lives a couple of buddies pulled him out of range and got him to an aid station. Eventually evacuated to the United States, Ed spent the next 26 months recuperating in military hospitals—and reading about the Civil War.

Discharged in 1946, he went to Georgetown University on the GI Bill and graduated in 1949. For several years he worked as a geographer in the Naval Hydrographic Office in Washington and spent his spare time visiting Civil War battlefields. That avocation soon became his vocation. He went to Indiana University, where he earned an M.A. in history with a thesis on Confederate Gen. Patrick Cleburne. Ed had already learned that one cannot understand a Civil War battle without walking the ground. "I realized that at Gettysburg, when I visited the battlefield in the early 1950s," he told me. "The ground over which Pickett's Charge took place was not at all how I visualized it from my reading." So before he wrote his thesis Ed decided to visit the battlefields where Cleburne fought. At Shiloh he had an epiphany of sorts. The park historian walked him over the field for six hours. "That six-hour ramble through the woods and fields of bloody Shiloh," Ed recalled, "changed my understanding of events of that late afternoon 92 years before." But even more significant were "the interpretive skills and electrifying personality" of the park historian, Charles Shedd. Then and there Ed decided that he wanted to pursue a similar career. He applied to the Park Service and in 1955 was hired as the historian at Vicksburg National Military Park.

From there Ed never looked back. He was promoted in 1958 to regional research historian for the National Park Service's Southeast region, still working out of Vicksburg but visiting virtually every battlefield in the western theater of the Civil War, writing up reports for other park historians, giving tours himself, and developing his unique style, which blended on-the-spot descriptions of tactics and terrain, colorful anecdotes about Civil War personalities both great and obscure, and an appreciation of the larger strategic and political contexts of specific battles. During these years Ed met Margie Riddle, a schoolteacher with an interest in and knowledge of the Civil War that matched Ed's own. They married in 1958. For the next eight years they lived in Vicksburg, where Margie began editing and proofreading Ed's books and research reports. She also helped him with one of the great coups of his career—the

raising of the ironclad gunboat U.S.S. *Cairo* from its watery grave in the Yazoo River north of Vicksburg, where it had been sunk by Confederate "torpedoes" (mines) in December 1862. As Ed and colleagues reconstructed the gunboat for exhibit at the park—the pièce de résistance of Civil War artifacts—Marge spent some 3,000 hours cleaning, identifying, and researching 10,000 items that came up with the boat, ranging from silverware to frying pans to boat hardware—many of them on exhibit at the park's U.S.S. *Cairo* museum.

By the time of the Civil War Centennial in the 1960s, Ed had earned fame as the most knowledgeable Civil War historian in the National Park Service. In 1966 he moved to Washington as part of a new research team of Park Service historians. Here, too, his workaholic energy and encyclopedic knowledge produced superb reports and recommendations for improvement at national parks from Guam to the Klondike, from Fort Moultrie to Fort Donelson. In 1981 Ed became chief historian of the National Park Service, a position he held until a year before his retirement in 1995.

But for Ed, retirement meant more time than ever for his favorite activity—tours of every kind of historical site for organizations of all kinds—the Smithsonian Institution, the Civil War Preservation Trust, History America Tours, the Blue and Gray Education Society, Civil War roundtables, the U.S. Army and Marine Corps—and on and on. Ed's tours have reached tens of thousands of people, many of whom return again and again as self-described Bearss groupies. Although other tour guides have tried, none can match Ed's unique style, which personalizes the generals and politicians and sergeants and privates who populate his battlefield tours. His stentorian voice carries easily not only to those in his tours but also to the dozens of others who attach themselves to Ed as he walks the ground at Gettysburg and other fields.

The following transcripts of Ed's tours of the principal Civil War battlefields make it possible for those who have never been privileged to take an actual tour with him to take a virtual tour. And for those who have walked these fields with Ed, the transcripts bring back the details of terrain and tactics, personalities and command decisions that first opened their eyes to the reality of those battles—and of that war. To read the following pages is the next best thing to being there.

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

January 2010



From the President

I wish to extend a special thanks to Errol Steffy and Barbara Shafer for their efforts in bringing Ed Bearss to our Round Table. Errol and I were fortunate to have breakfast the following morning with Ed. He put us very much at ease, and we spoke at length about various subjects. He was very complimentary of our organization, especially pointing out our dedication to preservation, our interest in Adopt-A-Position, and the quality of our facility and food. Ed visits many round tables but kept repeating that "we do it right." Many round tables are struggling to exist. Thanks to all who worked and attended.

Errol Steffy has compiled a list showing the speaker and topic for every meeting since the formation of our round table. This list will be of value in order to keep from duplicating topics and also to reconnect with speakers whom we would like to invite again. He did the same for our field trips. Thank you, Errol.

Please come to the January meeting prepared to engage in a lively discussion of Jefferson Davis and his Generals. Think about Davis's relationships with his Generals, both good and bad. Let us explore the successes and failures of these men. Who were the best and the worst and why? Remember that all opinions are welcome. Feel free to speak up.

Joe Schaeffer

Round Table Business

On December 8, 2009, President Joe Schaeffer called to order the December meeting of the First Defenders Round Table with 72 members and 17 guests in attendance. Vice President Rob Marks offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Directories of membership are being completed, and having them e-mailed was mentioned as a viable option for distribution.

The specific monument to be cared for at Gettysburg by the volunteers for the Adopt-A-Position program will be chosen by the January meeting. Don Stripling has been handling this initiative. Joe announced that Dave Fowler had brought books from Harrisburg about the preservation of battle flags, and these were made available to members. He also thanked Bob Mulligan for arranging for Darrin Youker of the *Reading Eagle* to interview Ed Bearss for an article that appeared on Saturday, December 12th in the *Eagle*.

Treasurer's Report

Arlan Christ filed a report that began with a balance from November 10, 2009, of \$4,324.61. Receipts from the November meeting totaled \$1,008.00 bringing a new balance of \$5,332.61. Expenses incurred totaled \$1010.76 leaving a balance of \$4,321.85. The preservation fund had a total of \$375.00.

Book Raffle/Preservation

Tom Tate reported the following:

This has been an unusual year for us so far as preservation fund giving is concerned. Several hot items came up through CWPT since our September meeting where the ratio of dollars raised for each dollar donated was significant. This month the

members voted to donate \$300.00 to CWPT for the preservation of 46 acres at Appomattox Station. The ratio is a remarkable \$115.00 to \$1.00. We have donated to other such sites where the leverage was too good to pass up. This year we have already granted \$350.00 and still have \$264 in the preservation fund. That includes the \$189.00 that we raised at the December meeting. The speaker, the noted Ed Bearss, brought out a high number of members and guests, and they dug deep and purchased raffle tickets. This has to be a record.

The members continue to donate books so we are in good shape and will probably remain so for some time to come. I wish all of you a very merry Christmas with your families and friends and that you have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Ed's Artifacts

Ed Ewing's fascinating table of artifacts included a large collection of books and manuals of instruction from the Civil War. One of the more noteworthy books was a Hardee's Tactics that had been owned by Capt. David Spaulding. There was also a Bible that had been owned by a soldier in the 97th Pennsylvania.

As always, thanks, Ed, for sharing your vast collection and your knowledge each month.

December's Program, Ed Bearss

Ed Bearss, America's premier battlefield historian and the historian emeritus of the National Park Service, seemed to literally fill the room at Moselem Springs with his presence. All in attendance had been anticipating the meeting since Ed's name was first mentioned as a possible presenter many months ago. This reporter found the atmosphere electric as Ed led us up the Valley with Stonewall Jackson during the 1862 campaign.

Most of us recognize it when we are in the company of greatness...and that was easy to do with Ed Bearss. He explained the Valley campaign in detail using no notes but speaking this part of America's story from the heart and experience of his years. I have pages of notes that I took eagerly worrying that I might miss any detail being shared with us. I will happily share them with anyone interested. I offer my thanks to Errol Steffy and Barb Shafer for bringing this fine gentleman to us. --Linda Zeiber

January's Trivia

1. What was the name of Belle Boyd's horse?
2. What nickname expressing admiration was bestowed upon barely literate Nathan B. Forrest, C.S.A.?
3. Who is generally credited with having won the first engagement of the war?

Quotable

From Barbara Shafer—

"I have been a soldier all my life--I was an officer in the Army of the U.S., which service I left to fight for my own country, and for, and with, my own People--and because they were right, and oppressed." --Brig. Gen. Lewis A. Armistead, letter to Samuel Cooper dated December 21, 1861

Victorian Poetry

Ashby

By John Ruben Thompson

To the brave all homage render,
Weep, ye skies of June!
With a radiance pure and tender,
Shine, oh saddened moon!
"Dead upon the field of glory,"
Hero fit for song and story,

Lies our bold dragoon.

Well they learned, whose hands have slain him,
Braver, knightlier foe
Never fought with Moor nor Paynim,
Rode at Templestowe,
With a mien how high and joyous,
'Gainst the hordes that would destroy us
Went he forth we know.

Never more, Alas! shall sabre
Gleam around his crest;
Fought his fight; fulfilled his labor;
Stilled his manly breast.
All unheard sweet Nature's cadence,
Trump of fame and voice of maidens,
Now he takes his rest.
Earth, that all too soon hath bound him,
Gently wrap his clay;
Linger lovingly around him,
Light of dying day;
Softly fall the summer showers'
Birds and bees among the flowers
Make the gloom seem gay.

There, throughout the coming ages,
When his sword is rust,
And his deeds in classic pages,
Mindful of her trust,
Shall Virginia, bending lowly,
Still a ceaseless vigil holy
Keep above his dust!

--submitted by Barbara Shafer

The Sword of Robert Lee
by Abram Joseph Ryan

Forth from its scabbard, pure and bright,
Flashed the sword of Lee!
Far in the front of the deadly fight,
High o'er the brave in the cause of Right
Its stainless sheen, like a beacon light,
Led us to Victory!

Out of its scabbard, where, full long,
It slumbered peacefully,
Roused from its rest by the battle's song,
Shielding the feeble, smiting the strong,
Guarding the right, avenging the wrong,
Gleamed the sword of Lee!

Forth from its scabbard, high in air
Beneath Virginia's sky--
And they who saw it gleaming there,
And knew who bore it, knelt to swear
That where that sword led they would dare
To follow--and to die!

Out of its scabbard! Never hand
Waved a sword from stain as free,

Nor purer sword led braver band,
Nor braver bled for a brighter land,
Nor brighter land had a cause so grand,
Nor cause a chief like Lee!

Forth from its scabbard! How we prayed
That sword might victor be;
And when our triumph was delayed,
And many a heart grew sore afraid,
We still hope on while gleamed the blade
Of noble Robert Lee!

Forth from its scabbard all in vain
Bright flashed the sword of Lee;
'Tis shrouded now in its sheath again,
Its sleeps the sleep of our noble slain,
Defeated, yet without stain,
Proudly and peacefully!

*Note: Father Ryan was a Catholic priest from Maryland, devout in his love for the Confederacy. His poem calls up the legends of medieval chivalry, the pure knight with the pure sword, in defeat still radiant with honor.
---submitted by Linda Zeiber

Reservations for the January 12, 2010 Meeting:

Dinner selections for the January meeting are **Chicken Pot Pie; Pork Chops with gravy; and Baked Ziti with Meatballs.** The price is \$20.00 for meals. Please call in your reservation and menu selection at 610.683.4384 no later than Monday, January 4, 2010. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly.
*****NOTE: Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. The Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation.**

2010 Program Schedule

January 12, 2010:	Round Table Discussion: Davis's Generals
February 9, 2010:	Dave Fox, Saltville
March 9, 2010:	Chris Heisey, Civil War Photography and Preservation
April 13, 2010:	Barnet Schecter, "The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America"
May 11, 2010:	Dave Sweigert, Wheatfield at Gettysburg and John Rutter Brooke and the 53 rd PA

Upcoming program presentations feature speakers who have written books. The following are titles that you may want to acquire prior to the meetings:

March 2010—Chris Heisey—*Gettysburg, this Hallowed Ground*

April 2010—Barnet Schecter—*The Battle for New York: The City at the Heart of the American Revolution* and *The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America*

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, 610.678.1168 or zeibers@comcast.net



The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2010



From the President

A special message of thanks goes out to all members who attended the January meeting. We had a lively and informative discussion of Confederate generals. Many sound opinions were offered on the good ones, the bad ones, their relationships with Jefferson Davis, and their impacts on the war.

One possible topic for next year is "Were the Southern states justified in seceding?" The debate centers on both moral and legal issues. If anyone has an alternative suggestion, please bring it up at the February meeting, and we will make a decision.

Sadly, we note the passing of longtime member Richard Auman. Dick loved history, he was a good man, and he was a friend. Farewell, Dick.

Joe Schaeffer

Round Table Business

On January 12, 2010, President Joe Schaeffer called to order the January meeting of the First Defenders Round Table with 43 members in attendance. Joe then offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Directories of membership were available. Please note that Robert McLaughlin, 3103 Curtis Road, Sinking Spring, PA 19608, 610.670.9086, Kbm14@msn.com needs to be added to your roster.

Joe announced that Ed Bearss is scheduled to return to our round table in April 2011. Joe reiterated his message from the January newsletter that Ed raved about our organization, its facility, and the work being done for preservation.

Membership

Pat Christ announced that one new member had been added to the roster. Note his information in the above section for inclusion in your roster.

Treasurer's Report

Arlan Christ filed a report that began with a balance from December 8, 2009, of \$4,321.85. Receipts from the December meeting totaled \$1,969.00 bringing a new balance of \$6,290.85. Expenses incurred totaled \$3,210.68 leaving a balance of \$3,980.17. The preservation fund had a total of \$264.00.

Book Raffle/Preservation

Tom Tate reported the following:

We drew down our preservation fund money in order to send it to preservation sites that were really threatened and to take advantage of good leveraging. We went into the new year with \$264.00 in the preservation fund, but we raised another \$133.00 at the January meeting so our fund is at \$397.00. I would like to make it our goal to have raised \$1,000.00 by the end of our season so we can make our usual contribution to preservation and make a presentation to our trip site. The goal will be a challenge since we have but four months remaining. But, if the members come out and attend the

remaining meetings, it is do-able. The list of speakers and topics for the rest of the year should draw a good attendance.

We continue to be in good shape for books to raffle, and we thank the members who continue to supply books for the raffle purpose.

2010 Field Trip June 12-13

The arrangements for the field trip to the Shenandoah Valley, VA, are now in place. The Saturday highlights include a visit to the Turner Ashby monument, the twin battlefields of Cross Keys and Port Republic where re-enactments will be taking place and an evening where we will be able to enjoy the ambience of the New Market Battlefield Visitor Center while enjoying a buffet dinner followed by our speaker for the night. On Sunday the highlights will be the morning in downtown Harrisonburg and in the afternoon the New Market battlefield tour including the 54th Pennsylvania monument.

The cost of the overnight Harrisonburg Field Trip will be \$180 per person with an additional cost of \$40.00 should a single hotel room be required. However, since we do not plan on making profits from field trips should we exceed the breakeven number on the bus, the potential profit will be divided up and refunds given. We will be required to place deposits on our bookings in March so by then we will need to know whether the trip is a go or not. To secure your seat we are requesting a \$40 deposit be paid before or at the March meeting.

Please send your check, payable to the *First Defenders*, to Dave Fox, 577 CEDAR HILL RD. BIRDSBORO, PA. 19508

Any questions please call: Dave at 610-582-9245

or Roger at 570-384-1274 (e-mail. fiatlux@shenhgts.net)

Ed's Artifacts

Ed Ewing brought a sizeable collection of Civil War pocketknives. He explained that the most interesting was no doubt one found during an encampment at Drury's Bluff. Many are in excellent condition. He added that common items can be very special, and certainly that was the case with these.

As always, thanks, Ed, for sharing your vast collection and your knowledge each month.

January's Program, A Round Table Discussion of Davis's Generals

Joe Schaeffer summed up the program well in his message. Our goal had been to come to consensus on the 10 Confederate generals who had the most impact on the war. In no particular order, those present agreed on the following:

Robert E. Lee, Patrick Cleburne, James Longstreet, John Bell Hood, Joe Johnston, Stonewall Jackson, Nathan Bedford Forrest, and JEB Stuart.

Completing the list to include a total of 10 was difficult. Many others were mentioned but consensus was not reached. Some of the names included Breckinridge, Barksdale, Pemberton, Kirby Smith, Beauregard, Early, Gordon, DH Hill, AP Hill, Morgan, Shelby and last, but not least, "Mudwall" Jackson!

February's Trivia

1. Where were over one hundred men of the Fifth United States Colored Cavalry said to have been massacred on October 2, 1864?
2. At what site was salt destroyed in enormous quantities by Union cavalryman General George Stoneman?
3. At least 50,000 bushels of what scarce commodity were destroyed by Federal troops in December 1864?

F.Y.I.

"Gettysburg: Perspectives on the Battle and Campaign"

From January 10 through February 28, 2010, Gettysburg National Military Park will be offering a mid-winter lecture series presented in the Ford Education Center at the park Museum and Visitor Center. Presented by park rangers, these programs are scheduled for Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 PM.

For more information http://www.gettysburg.travel/visitor/member_detail.asp

Our speaker for March, Chris Heisey, will be bringing some of his books, *Gettysburg, this Hallowed Ground*, to sell. He will be signing autographs for all interested.

Joe Schaeffer mentioned the possibility of members submitting articles to the Reading Eagle as the 150th anniversary of the Civil War is commemorated. Details will be forthcoming.



Celebrating the 150th Anniversary

--submitted by Errol Steffy

From a Lincoln campaign speech given February 27, 1860, at the Cooper Union in Manhattan, NY, with his hosts Horace Greeley and William Cullen Bryant:

"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

Victorian Poetry

An Army Corps on the March

By
Walt Whitman

With its cloud of skirmishers in advance,
With now the sound of a single shot snapping like a whip, and now an irregular volley,
The swarming ranks press on and on, the dense brigades press on,
Glittering dimly, toiling under the sun--the dust-cover'd men,
In columns rise and fall to the undulations of the ground,
With artillery interspers'd--the wheels rumble, the horses sweat,
As the army corps advances.

*Note: This is a poem pulsating with the thrill of excitement at the spectacle of war, a thrill Whitman could not suppress despite the horror of it all.

--submitted by Linda Zeiber

Reservations for the February 9, 2010 Meeting:

Dinner selections for the February meeting are *Grilled Marinated Chicken Romano; Baked Ham Steak with Thompson Grape Glaze; Broiled Haddock in garlic clam stock*. The price is \$20.00 for meals. Please call in your reservation and menu selection at 610.683.4384 no later than Monday, February 1, 2010. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. ***NOTE: Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. The Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please

understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation.

2010 Program Schedule

February 9, 2010: Dave Fox, Saltville
March 9, 2010: Chris Heisey, Civil War Photography and Preservation
April 13, 2010: Barnet Schechter, "The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America"
May 11, 2010: Dave Sweigert, Wheatfield at Gettysburg and John Rutter Brooke and the 53rd PA

Another upcoming program features a speaker who has written books. The following is a title that you may want to acquire prior to the meeting:

April 2010—Barnet Schechter—*The Battle for New York: The City at the Heart of the American Revolution* and *The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America*



Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, 610.678.1168 or zeibers@comcast.net

UPDATE

As many of you have undoubtedly heard by now, the Inn at Moselem Springs is closing as of March 6. The Board has already begun to investigate where to hold future meetings. It will keep you updated as things develop. In the meantime, if anyone has suggestions, please pass them along to our president, Joe Schaeffer, at (610) 334-2029.

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

March 2010



From the President

I hope you are all surviving Old Man Winter's onslaught. Maybe he missed the conference on climate change. All joking aside, the First Defenders have seen two challenges thrown in our path in the past month.

The February meeting was cancelled due to the snowstorm. Hopefully, everyone who was registered to attend received a call. WEEU was also notified. I regret that we needed to cancel our final meeting at Moselem, but the safety of our membership must always be our foremost concern. Sadly, we missed the opportunity to hear Dave Fox. We will try to slot his talk in again as soon as possible.

The second challenge that we face is the closing of the Moselem Springs Inn, effective before our next meeting. We have arranged for the balance of this campaign, (March, April, & May) to meet at GIANNOTTI'S COUNTRY MANOR located at 3118 Pricetown Road, Fleetwood. Please be careful, as there are several Giannotti's restaurants in Berks County. I will give a few brief directions in the next paragraph, but feel free to use your own means to find the restaurant. The meal price will remain \$20.00 which as before will include a salad, entree, starch, vegetable, dessert, as well as coffee, tea, and soda. Items from the bar will continue to be on a cash basis. The facility has a flag and a small podium but no microphone or audio/visual aids. If anyone can help supply items when needed in those areas, please contact a board member.

DIRECTIONS: It will be impossible for me to cover all routes, but here are a few to help.

From the Reading area and some parts west and south: Take Route 12 East (Warren Street Bypass). The bypass will contract from four lanes into a two-lane blacktop at which point it is still Route 12 but now becomes known as Pricetown Road. From this point, Giannotti's is 2.2 miles and will be on your left.

From Moselem Springs, take Rte. 662 into Fleetwood. At the first light, turn right onto Main Street, then at the next light turn left onto Richmond Street which continues to be Rte. 662. The next light that you come to will be at Rte. 12. Turn right and proceed 2.8 miles to Giannotti's on your right.

From the east, Boyertown, etc., take Rte. 73 West to Rte. 12. Turn left onto Rte. 12 West and proceed 1.1 miles to Giannotti's on your right.

For others, consult your map or GPS unit, or you can call me at 610.334.2029 or e-mail me at jschaeffer@heartlandsettlement.com.

Please feel free to voice your opinions of our new facility. I would appreciate any complaints and/or suggestions to be made to myself or a board member and not to the restaurant.

We are also continuing to explore other sites in choosing a permanent location, which may be Giannotti's. Nothing is written in stone for next year, and the board welcomes suggestions of sites to pursue. Thanks for your patience and support.

Joe Schaeffer

Round Table Business

With the cancellation of February's meeting, there is no new business to report in this newsletter.

Membership

Pat Christ reports that two new members have been added to the roster. Please add the following to your membership list:

Andrew Schneider
507 Walker Road
Macungie, PA 18062
610.845.0708
ASchn85@yahoo.com

Kenneth Schneider
507 Walker Road
Macungie, PA 18062
610.845.0708
schneiderk@cliu.org

There is also an address change:

Jack Gurney
981 Powder Mill Hollow Road
Boyertown, PA 19512

Preservation

Tom Tate filed no report for March. However, it is important for all of us to remember that, by missing the February meeting, our preservation funds will be lower than projected for our end-of-the-year donation. Perhaps we could be doubly generous for the remainder of this season's meetings in order to continue our mission of battlefield preservation. Our members have always risen to the occasion in the past, and there is no reason to believe that we cannot do so in this important endeavor.

2010 Field Trip June 12-13

We have the plan in place for our overnight June 2010 field trip. The bus is booked, hotels rooms reserved, and both the Cross Keys and Port Republic Battlefields and the New Market Battlefield tours arranged. The Saturday evening banquet room and speaker at the New Market Civil War museum are also booked.

The area that we now need to anchor the trip is the commitment from members or those who are interested in going. We will be incurring some deposit expenses in late March so we are getting very close to a "go or not go" decision-making time. To secure a seat, please forward a \$40.00 per person deposit payable to the *First Defenders*, to Dave Fox, 577 CEDAR HILL RD., BIRDSBORO, PA 19508. If you plan to go but cannot commit at this time as possible other obligations could override your plan, please still give us a heads-up knowing that this could help us in making the decisions whether the trip will be a go or not. Our contact numbers are Dave at 610-582-9245 or Roger at 570-384-1274 (e-mail. fiatlux@shenhgts.net).

As stated in the January newsletter, the cost of the overnight Harrisonburg Field Trip will be \$180.00 per person with an additional cost of \$40.00 should a single hotel room be required. However, since we do not plan on making profits from field trips, should we exceed the break-even number on the bus, any potential profit will be divided up and refunds given. The bus will depart from Kutztown University, Lytle Hall parking lot at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday June 12 and return around 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 13th. Your promptness with a response will help us finalize what should be a great trip.

March Trivia

1. The wartime photographs made by what famed photographer are now preserved in the Library of Congress?
2. What major American artist began his career as a news artist for Harpers Weekly, sketching battle scenes and camp scenes?

3. What professional photographer is remembered for his book, *Photographic Views of Sherman's Campaign*?

The Program for March: Chris E. Heisey, Photographer

Chris E. Heisey is renowned for his evocative Civil War battlefield photography. He has published images in more than 125 publications worldwide including *National Geographic Traveler*, *America's Civil War*, *North & South* and has co-authored a book entitled *Gettysburg: This Hallowed Ground and In the Footsteps of Grant & Lee: Wilderness Through Cold Harbor*.

A native Pennsylvanian, Chris has traveled the country the past two decades gathering images at more than 350 hallowed American battlefields. In his career, he has received numerous accolades for his imagery including several national merit citations and a Photo of the Century award.

Passionate about saving our nation's threatened battlegrounds, Chris works with several preservation organizations such as the Civil War Preservation Trust to help their continuing quest to save the sanctity of treasured battlefields.

With his wife and son, he lives near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he works for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg as a photojournalist

Reservations for the March 9, 2010 Meeting:

Dinner selections for the March meeting are **Broiled Haddock, Chicken over Rice, or Lasagna.**

The price is **\$20.00** for meals. Please call in your reservation and menu selection at **610.683.4384** no later than **MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. GIANNOTTI'S COUNTRY MANOR REQUESTS THAT WE TURN IN OUR FINAL NUMBERS BY TUESDAY, SO PLEASE CALL BEFORE THE DEADLINE.** ***NOTE: Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. The Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation.

2010 Program Schedule

March 9, 2010:	Chris Heisey, Civil War Photography and Preservation
April 13, 2010:	*Barnet Schecter, "The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America"
May 11, 2010:	Dave Sweigert, Wheatfield at Gettysburg and John Rutter Brooke and the 53 rd PA

*This upcoming program features a speaker who has written books. The following is a title that you may want to acquire prior to the meeting:

April 2010—Barnet Schecter—*The Battle for New York: The City at the Heart of the American Revolution* and *The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America*

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, 610.678.1168 or zeibers@comcast.net



The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

April 2010



Round Table Business

With 62 members and guests in attendance, President Joe Schaeffer called to order the March 9, 2010, meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Giannotti's on Pricetown Road in Fleetwood, the new location for the remaining meetings of this campaign. Vice President Rob Marks led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a prayer. A moment of silence was observed to mark the death of member Bob Evans. Joe introduced a guest, Craig Breneiser, and welcomed him to our meeting. He discussed the difficulty of the past month with weather forcing the cancellation of the February meeting and the closing of Moselem Springs. He is seeking input from members as we work toward a permanent location for next season. Please contact Joe Schaeffer or any other board member with suggestions as soon as possible.

Those in attendance were informed that member Ira "Ike" Boyer is currently in St. Joseph's Hospital. Get well cards would be appreciated.

Treasurer's Report

Arlan Christ filed his treasurer's report that began with a balance of \$3,980.17 from January 12, 2010. Receipts from January's meeting totaled \$1,053.00 bringing a new balance of \$5,033.17. Expenses incurred totaled \$890.94 leaving a balance of \$4,142.23. The preservation fund had a total of \$397.00 prior to the March meeting.

Preservation

Tom Tate offers the following report for March:

The members must have thought they needed to make up for missing last month's meeting because they dug deep to raise another \$167.00 for preservation. That is a combination of ticket sales and donations. That brings our preservation fund up to \$564.00. Remember that we have made several donations already this year in order to take advantage of exceptionally good leveraging. We can thank our March speaker, Chris Heisey, for adding to the fund and also for donating a copy of his book for a raffle choice. Chris declined his speaker's stipend and requested that it be donated to preservation. Unfortunately, I did not get to ask him if he had a specific place or if he was content that the stipend go to our overall contribution.

Again, the members continue to donate books and items for our raffle. Thanks to all for making our preservation contributions so noteworthy.

2010 Field Trip June 12-13

Dave Fox requested that all members and their guests contact him or Roger Cotterill as soon as possible with intentions to take the June field trip to the Shenandoah Valley, VA. Trip itineraries were distributed with details of this adventure. As of March 9th, 17 people had made deposits for the trip. 40-46 people are needed to proceed. Dave or Roger need to know ASAP of your intentions.

We will be incurring some deposit expenses in late March so we are getting very close to a "go or not go" decision-making time. To secure a seat, please forward a \$40.00 per person deposit payable to the *First Defenders*, to Dave Fox, 577 CEDAR HILL RD., BIRDSBORO, PA 19508. If you plan to go but cannot commit at this time as possible other obligations could override your plan, please still give us a heads-up knowing that this could help us in making the decisions whether the trip will be a go or not. Our

contact numbers are Dave at 610-582-9245 or Roger at 570-384-1274 (e-mail: fiatlux@shenhgts.net).

As stated in the January newsletter, the cost of the overnight Harrisonburg Field Trip will be \$180.00 per person with an additional cost of \$40.00 should a single hotel room be required. However, since we do not plan on making profits from field trips, should we exceed the break-even number on the bus, any potential profit will be divided up and refunds given. The bus will depart from Kutztown University, Lytle Hall parking lot at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday June 12 and return around 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 13th. Your promptness with a response will help us finalize what should be a great trip.

Adopt a Position

Don Stripling announced Saturday, April 17th as the date volunteers would travel to Gettysburg to work on the maintenance of our "adopted" monument which has not been assigned at this point. Anyone who is interested in going and who has not already given his name to Don is still welcome. Call Don at 610.750.3998 or email donstripling54@msn.com.

Ed's Artifacts

Ed Ewing brought 3 cartridge boxes made in 1864 for our inspection. The rarest one was a Type 1 because few were made. They were embossed with 'US' badly. The Type 2 is the best known. The 'US' embossing is heavy. They are the most common still in existence. It was the last major infantry cartridge box made. As always, we are appreciative for Ed's sharing of his artifacts and his vast knowledge.

April Trivia

1. How many persons died in the New York draft riots of July 1863?
2. In 1863, draft riots in what Northern city protested the passage of the first national conscription act?
3. In April 1863, the US Department of War created what special corps made up of soldiers who had been wounded?

The Program for April: Barnet Schecter, "The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America"

Barnet Schecter is the author of *The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America* and *The Battle for New York: The City at the Heart of the American Revolution*. He was an advisor for the New York Historical Society's exhibit, Lincoln and New York, and a contributor to the companion volume. A contributing editor of the three-volume *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution* and *Landmarks of the American Revolution* (Scribner's 2006), he is also a contributor to the *Encyclopedia of New York City* (2010). He is a fellow of the New York Academy of History. In addition to lecturing and leading tours and military staff rides, he has appeared in a variety of television documentaries.



Quotable

From Barbara Schaefer--

"The nation is at this time in a state of Revolution, North, South, East, and West," wrote the Washington Times during the often violent protests that occurred after Abraham Lincoln issued the March 3, 1863, Enrollment Act of Conscription.

From Mike Straus--

Dr. William McPheeters was Chief Surgeon of Confederate General Thomas Churchill's Division serving near Shreveport, Louisiana in the Red River Campaign:

"After breakfast I rode down to Gen. Churchill's Headquarters to issue orders to the brigade surgeons on reference to monthly reports. Remained an hour with the General, while there he had a present from a lady in the neighborhood of a nice-looking cake in the shape of a large heart all done up nicely in flowers. He invited me to eat it with him, but, when we cut it, behold the center was filled with cotton, when we remembered that it was the first of April, 1864."

Musings of April

by Linda Zeiber

I love April shamelessly. My yearnings for daffodils and forsythia evolve into reality as color subtly splashes the desolate landscape of winter. T. S. Eliot wrote in *The Waste Land*, "April is the cruelest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain." His words embody my feelings of April. Hints of the earth's rebirth blossom into exclamatory sentences. In April, we stand in the doorway of life renewed. It is the month of endings and beginnings, just as it was for the war that ripped the fabric of America and then witnessed the beginning of a new nation's birth.

The opening salvo of the Civil War occurred on April 12, 1861, as Confederate forces under P. G. T. Beauregard led the attack on Fort Sumter under the command of his former teacher, Major Robert Anderson. Only ten days later, Robert E. Lee took command of the Confederate forces of Virginia. The die was cast and the ensuing four years of strife had begun. On April 28th of that same year, Union troops burned and abandoned the armory at Harper's Ferry, VA, where only a few years earlier, Robert E. Lee, wearing the blue uniform of the US Army, had captured abolitionist John Brown. The ironies of the conflict were in their infancy. On April 29, 1861, Maryland rejected secession from the United States. How different future circumstances might have been had Maryland joined the Confederacy.

In early April of the second year of conflict, General Albert Sidney Johnston led his army from Corinth, Mississippi, toward Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, where his and Grant's forces tangled in the Battle of Shiloh. Grant prevailed but only after catastrophic losses for both forces. The end of April 1862 brought the fall of New Orleans, the largest city in the South, giving Mississippi River access to the Union.

On April 5, 1863, the British took action against several Confederate vessels, detaining them at Liverpool. The British government was sending notice to the Confederacy that they could expect less from the British by way of support to their war effort. Five days later, slavery was finally abolished in the District of Columbia. Winter encampments were breaking up in April of 1863. Ahead lay some of the deadliest battles of the war.

The climax of the war began in April 1865. On the first of that month, the Confederate loss at Five Forks, VA, threatened Lee's last supply line--the South Side Railroad. On April 2nd, Lee warned President Jefferson Davis that Petersburg and Richmond must be evacuated. April 6th at Sailor's Creek, VA, witnessed one-fourth of the Confederate army cut off by Union forces. Most of them surrendered; hence the death knell of the Confederate army was at hand. As Lee saw his survivors alongside the road, he uttered, "My God, has the army dissolved?" On April 9, 1865, General Lee surrendered his army to General Grant at Appomattox Court House.

It seemed that the war had finally ended, but the assassination of the man who had saved the Union reared its head only five days following the surrender in Virginia. John Wilkes Booth shot President Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theater in a plot to decapitate the leadership of the United States in Washington, D.C. Lincoln died from the head wound in a boarding house across the street from the theater in the early morning hours of April 15th. Union troops cornered and shot Booth in a tobacco barn near Garrett, VA, on April 26th.

The Civil War, which draws us together as a Round Table seeking understanding, began and ended in April. Perhaps the first stirrings of my interest in the Civil War began in junior high school as I studied Irene Hunt's book, *Across Five Aprils*. Several years ago, Jay Winik wrote exclusively of April 1865 in his book of the same title. The subtitle of his book is "The Month That Saved America." Because of its teasings and promise of what is to follow, April will always remain my favorite month of the year. How could it not?

Reservations for the April 13, 2010 Meeting:

Dinner selections for the April meeting are ziti with meatballs, salmon, or ham.

The price is \$20.00 for meals. Please call in your reservation and menu selection at 610.683.4384 no later than Monday, April 5, 2010. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. *NOTE: Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. The Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation.**

2010 Program Schedule

April 13, 2010:	*Barnet Schecter, "The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America"
May 11, 2010:	Dave Sweigert, Wheatfield at Gettysburg and John Rutter Brooke and the 53 rd PA

*This upcoming program features a speaker who has written books. The following is a title that you may want to acquire prior to the meeting:

April 2010—Barnet Schecter—*The Battle for New York: The City at the Heart of the American Revolution* and *The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America*

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, 610.678.1168 or zeibers@comcast.net



53rd PA

Dave Sweigert
Bruce Hoffman

5-11-10



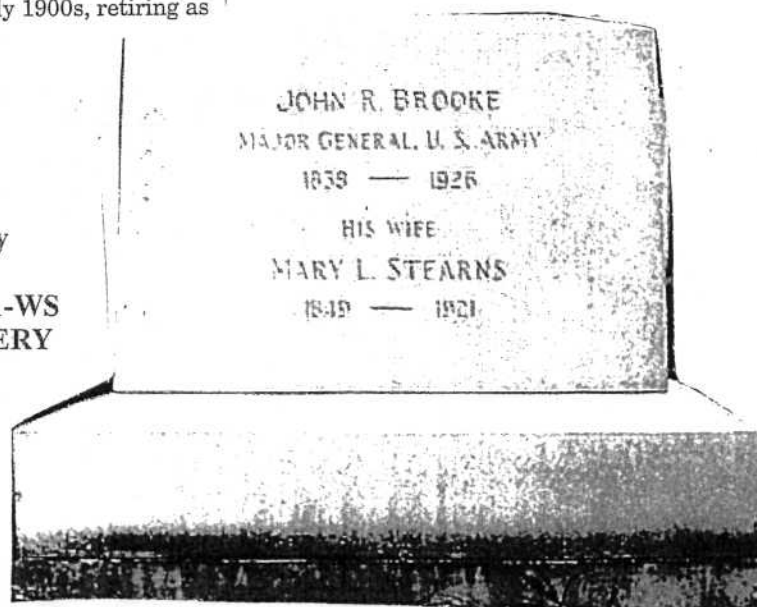
U.S. Army Photo

Brig. Gen. John R. Brooke

Commander, 53d Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry

Photo taken around the early part of his military career during the Civil War. In the infancy of the 53d Pennsylvania, Colonel Brooke was the driving force to train and lead the fledgling young men of the regiment into a combat, fighting, infantry unit. Wounded at Gettysburg and severely at Cold Harbor, the colonel re-entered the army after the war, and served until the early 1900s, retiring as a major general.

Major General, United States Army
DATE OF DEATH: 09/05/1926
BURIED AT: SECTION 2 SITE 1031-WS
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY





53d Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry Monument

Located on Brooke's Drive southeast of the Wheatfield, Gettysburg, Pa. The monument was dedicated on "Pennsylvania Day," September 1, 1889. The dedication and address were given by 1st Lt. and Adj. Charles P. Hatch. Few of the men attended that colorful dedication at Gettysburg. Some were suffering from ill health or did not have the means for transportation to the field. A substantial number had moved to other areas of the country, and quite a few had died of battle wounds and disease contracted during four years of soldiering. Hundreds lay beneath the soil, having paid the supreme price for God, Country, and Flag.*

“Now with the crowning gratification that the regiment can once again leave the field of battle, they can do so with the feeling that their work there was indeed completed, but with the added assurance that the Fifty-third Pennsylvania, vigilant in its country's cause, will hereafter, even when they may be sleeping the long sleep, still maintain on permanent post, “a sentinel,” to represent the Fifty-third Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteers, and by his silent presence keep alive the same self-sacrificing patriotism it displayed.”

Total enrollment: 1993 officers/men

Recapitulation

The following chart shows a breakdown of the 53d Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry casualties from November 7, 1861, to June 30, 1865, reported by Colonel William Mintzer.

Commissioned Officers

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Died of Disease</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing/Captured</u>	<u>Total</u>
5	1	22	3	31

Enlisted Men

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Died of Disease</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing/Captured</u>	<u>Total</u>
195	231	341	82*	849

Grand Total: 880⁹

Engagements

Yorktown
Peach Orchard
Fair Oaks
Gaines' Mill
Savage Station
White Oak Swamp
Malvern Hill
Antietam
Fredericksburg
Chancellorsville
Gettysburg
Bristoe Station
Mine Run
Wilderness
Po River
Spottsylvania
Cold Harbor
Petersburg
Strawberry Plains
Deep Bottom
Ream's Station
Hatcher's Run
Southside Railroad
Farmville
Appomattox

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter



2010

From the President

The host facility for the First Defenders beginning September 14, 2010, will be Golden Oaks Golf Club at 10 Stonehedge Drive, Fleetwood, PA 19522. The actual location is on Rte. 662 about 1/2 mile east of the intersection of Rte. 12 (Pricetown Road), and Rte. 662. The Board considered several locations; but, in the end, Golden Oaks fit the best when considering location, access, safety, availability, food, and room size. Each facility was better than another in one or two items, but Golden Oaks was best when all needs were considered. They have an elevator to accommodate anyone with issues with stairs. The meal price will be \$22.00 including salad, entree, dessert, coffee, soda, tea, and tip. They have a sound system; but, if anyone knows where we can pick up a podium and flag (with holder), please let us know.

Next on the agenda is the May elections. You as members have the right to nominate and elect anyone you choose. That being said, the present Board would like to return except for Pat Christ (Membership), Arlan Christ (Treasurer), and Rich Kennedy (Recording Secretary). Linda Zeiber has agreed to add Rich's job to her own. Please give your thanks to these folks who have served you so well for many years. A special thanks also to Mike Gabriel who continued to help this year in so many ways but now needs to devote more time to his other pursuits and personal life. I think I may have mistakenly given the impression that we need to fill a spot vacated by Mike. That is not the case. Therefore, we need two people to step forward for Pat and Arlan's positions. Do not be shy. Everyone on the Board is nice except for me.

The Board is working with a company to create a website for us. This will give us exposure to new members, speakers, and other groups. Anyone wishing to help us with maintaining the site going forward, please step forward. Newsletters will be posted on the site, therefore saving us on envelope costs, copying, postage, and folding/stuffing. We respect the fact that some members do not use the internet, and those people will still receive a mailing. I will call those members who do not list an e-mail address in the directory to identify those who can access the website, but who do not want to publish their e-mail address. We respect your privacy but expect those with access to use it.

One last item, and I will stop. Dave Fox and Roger Cotterill have worked very hard on the trip, but we can still use a few more attendees. Contact Dave if interested.

**THE MAY MEETING IS STILL AT GIANNOTTI'S. SEPTEMBER STARTS
GOLDEN OAKS.** Thanks for a great year.

Joe

Round Table Business

With 60 members in attendance, President Joe Schaeffer called to order the April 13, 2010, meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Giannotti's on Pricetown Road in Fleetwood, the location for the final meeting of this campaign. Vice President Rob Marks led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a prayer.

Recording Secretary Richard Kennedy read the minutes from the board meeting held on March 24, 2010, at Berkleigh Country Club.

Treasurer's Report

Arlan Christ filed his treasurer's report that began with a balance of \$4,142.23 from March 9, 2010. Receipts from the March meeting totaled \$2,107.00 bringing a new

balance of \$6,249.23. Expenses incurred totaled \$1,879.50 leaving a balance of \$4,369.73. The preservation fund had a total of \$564.00 prior to the April meeting.

Preservation

Tom Tate offers the following report for April:

This year was special in terms of donating preservation money. In order to take advantage of good leveraging opportunities, we made several grants to different projects throughout the year. Even so, and with missing our February meeting, we now have \$714.00 in our preservation fund. I believe that we shall raise another amount in excess of \$100.00 next month bringing our fund to around \$825.00. As always, we will vote to decide who will be the recipient. As Arlan, our outgoing treasurer has advised, we need not hold a lot of money in our treasury over our inactive summer months, and we frequently take money from the general fund to bolster our preservation donations. This, I believe, has been a wise decision.

However, I would like to propose, in light of this past year, that we hold back some funds just in case there are other good leveraging opportunities that come up early in our new year before our preservation fund grows to a substantial amount. That way we can help what we may believe is a worthwhile preservation project. It would be a shame if over the summer or early next fall a site came on the market and our treasury was low, and we could not help to preserve a valued site.

Again, I thank the members for their ticket purchases and to those who make donations of money and books. Our book library is still pretty well-stocked thanks to the generous donations of you members.

2010 Field Trip June 12-13

As of April 13, there were 28 signed up for the 2010 Shenandoah Field trip. This number is a little shy of the expected number required to cover all of our planned costs. With some juggling, we are able to modify our plans to make the trip a "go". The \$180.00 cost of the overnight Harrisonburg Field Trip will cover all bus-related costs except the driver's gratuity, the Saturday evening dinner, facility and speaker fees, hotel accommodation, battlefield tours, and a Sunday buffet dinner at Ryan's Family Steakhouse in Martinsburg on our way home. What is not included in the \$180.00 will be a Saturday lunch. One suggestion is for each of us to bring a bagged lunch, although we will let you know at the May meeting of any other options. Sunday's brunch, which we will be able to buy at any one of many Harrisonburg's downtown venues, also is not included in the \$180.

Since we will arrive during the re-enactment activities at the Cross Keys and Port Republic Battlefields, we have decided to forego the cost of a battlefield guide there and will be able to observe first-hand what is happening. The Kemper House will be open as will be the Museum at Port Republic. We do have a volunteer from the Sons of the Confederacy who will accompany us and speak to us at the Turner Ashby Monument site. It should be a good trip and, although I hear that Washington has become concerned that there may not be enough weather to go around, we should be all right.

If you know anyone else who is thinking about going on the trip, please give him a nudge. As a reminder, we are now getting close to the time to pay the \$140 balance for the trip so put money aside to be ready to hand a check over to Dave at the May meeting or mail it at your earliest convenience to Dave Fox, payable to the First Defenders, at 577 Cedar Hill Road, Birdsboro, PA 19508.

The bus will be leaving the Kutztown University Lytle Hall parking lot on Saturday at 7:00 a.m. sharp and returning around 9:00 p.m. on Sunday night.

Any questions, please call: Dave at 610.582.9245 or Roger at 570.384.1274 (fiatlux@shenhgts.net)

Ed's Artifacts

Ed Ewing shared with us a Le Fauchaux pin-fired pistol, a Belgian version. The Belgians did good work on the manufacturing of these guns unlike the French who were

plagued by delays. 10,000 of them were bought by the US Government for Western troops. This type of weapon was popular with both Union and Confederate officers. It was unique in that it could be fired as a single shot or as a double action piece.

Along with the gun, Ed brought a box of Belgian-made cartridges for the pin-fire. These were in their original sawdust packaging. We are all appreciative for Ed's sharing of his artifacts and his vast knowledge with us each month.

May Trivia

1. What general was the next-to-last survivor of the 583 Union generals of full rank from the Civil War?
2. What was the 53rd Pennsylvania Infantry's first major battle that occurred on June 1, 1862?
3. The term rookies comes from a Civil War term, "reckie", which was short for what?

April's Program: Barnet Schecter, A Few Final Words

Barnet Schecter, author of *The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America*, took those attending April's meeting to the streets of New York City in July of 1863 studying the deadliest riots in the history of the United States. Barnet is an excellent speaker and this was an exceptional presentation.

Errol Steffy wanted to share Barnet's final e-mail with the membership:

Errol,

Many thanks for your hospitality. The accommodations were first-rate and the trip went smoothly. The interest in my presentation shown by the members was very gratifying, and they purchased 17 books. I will definitely keep you posted on my activities and publications, and would be delighted to guide the group around New York City. It was great to finally meet you in person.

Best,

Barnet

Tom Tate shared the following story with me that certainly feeds right into Barnet's presentation on the draft riots:

In her book, *Other Powers*, Barbara Goldsmith tells this story. The women's rights pioneer Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her family lived in New York City only a few blocks away from the Negro orphanage that was burned. Her husband was deputy customs collector for the port of New York and her oldest son worked there, too. Being well-to-do, her son Daniel paid \$300.00 for a substitute and avoided military service.

During the riots, Daniel went outside to observe the goings-on and was accosted by a group of Irish rioters who, upon seeing him, shouted, "There's one of them three-hundred dollar fellers!"

They began to drag Daniel away when they passed a saloon. Daniel invited them in for a drink, and lynching must have been thirsty work. After standing the group to drinks, the Irish claimed that Daniel was a good fellow, and they let him go.

Gettysburg Casino Project Is Back

The Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center on the Emmitsburg Road, Bus. Rte. 15 N, could become a slots casino. The property includes the hotel, residential units, and sports complex. The site is five miles from the center of Gettysburg but less than a mile from the Gettysburg National Military Park boundary.

The project is called Mason-Dixon Resort & Casino. The success of the project depends on the state legislature. For late-breaking developments on the Gettysburg casino controversy, go to www.civilwarnews.com.

Adopt-A-Position Field Trip

On Saturday, April 17, 2010, Barbara Shafer led a small group to "her" monument, Rush's Lancers of the 6th PA Cavalry, along the Emmitsburg Road near Gettysburg. The First Defenders is in the process of adopting its own monument but has been delayed because of the recent illness of the Adopt-A-Position coordinator. The

group painted fence and pruned branches. The Park Service provided equipment and paint. Despite the blustery April day, all enjoyed both the work detail and the remainder of the day on the Battlefield and in town. Barbara was assisted by Joe Schaeffer, Gary Hertzog, Roger Cotterill, and Linda Zeiber.

...In Their Own Words

If you are as fortunate as my husband and I are, you have letters from ancestors who served in the military during the Civil War. There are three writers of our letters; their relationship is still uncertain. One is well-educated. The other two write rather phonetically...poor spelling and grammar and heavy German accents'. I will share parts of some of these letters from time to time. If you have any of your own that you want to share please forward them (copies or transcriptions only!) to me.

Linda Zeiber

Beauford, SC March 19th, 1862

Mister Dear Brother,

I take the pen in my hand to write to you to let you know that I am well....and I hope that this few lines may find you and all the rest the same. I expect to get into a battle before long. We expect to have marching orders everyday. You will hear pretty hard fighting before long in SC, but we were sitting in our tent and all missing to be in Claytonville at the hotel. Then we would take a bally good sprew and would raise a frolic up before we would get shot in the battle. It may be that we might get all shot and maybe that we might be all safe, and I must bring my letter to a close. Give our respect to all our good friends.

Henry G. Wentzel

Company B, 50th PA Regt.

Hurrah for Dixie in SC!

May Program, John R. Brooke and the 53rd PA

Pottstown native John R. Brooke began his military career as colonel of the 53rd Pennsylvania. He was promoted to brigade command and ended his career as a major general. The 53rd PA was a highly-respected unit in the Second Corps of the Army of the Potomac, engaged in all major battles from the Peninsula to Appomattox. Bruce Hoffman, historian from Birdsboro, will provide an overview of Brooke's career while First Defender's member Dave Sweigert will summarize the actions of the "Fighting 53rd". This promises to be a program that no one will want to miss as we bring our current campaign to a close. Make your reservations for the May meeting now. Let's have a great turnout.

Reservations for the May 11, 2010 Meeting:

Dinner selections for the May meeting are **chicken parmesan, broiled haddock, or Black Diamond steak.**

The price is \$20.00 for meals. Please call in your reservation and menu selection at 610.683.4384 no later than Monday, May 3, 2010. Please call after 5:00 p.m. and speak clearly. *NOTE: Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations. The Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation.

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, 610.678.1168 or zeibers@comcast.net



June 2010

We have **now ordered boxed lunches** for Saturday for everyone going on our field trip. This became possible as the Best Western gave us a complimentary room and Ryan's Restaurant two complimentary meals and we have had two additional sign up's bringing our group number to 30. The lunch box will include a macaroni salad, chips, a piece of fruit, cookies, a soda drink and a choice of **Ham, Beef or Turkey** sandwich. If you have a sandwich preference let me know and I will order accordingly. There will be bottled water available on the bus as well. I have also included directions to the Kutztown University, Lytle Hall parking lot as well as our trip itinerary.

Trip itinerary outline:

Saturday June 12

Depart by bus Kutztown University's Lytle Hall parking lot.	7:00 a.m.	
Arrive Visitor's Center, Harrisonburg VA.	11:30 a.m.	to 12:00 noon
Lunch	12:15 p.m.	to 1:00 p.m.
Turner Ashby Monument, Battlefields Cross Keys & Port Republic.	1:00 p.m.	to 4:00 p.m.
Check into Hotel	4:30 p.m.	to 5:00 p.m.
Dinner and Speaker (New Market Civil War Museum)	5:30 p.m.	to 8:00 p.m.
Arrive back at Hotel	8:30 p.m.	

Sunday June 13

Arrive Downtown Harrisonburg	9:45 a.m.	
Tour Harrisonburg sites and brunch (own accord)	9:45 a.m.	to 12:15 p.m.
New Market Battlefield and 54 th Pennsylvania Monument	1:00 p.m.	to 3:30 p.m.
Buffet Dinner Martinsburg	5:00 p.m.	to 5:45 p.m.
Arrive back at Kutztown University's Lytle Hall parking lot.	8:30 p.m.	to 9:00 p.m.

Directions to K.U.'s Lytle Hall parking lot:

Travel along **Main Street** in Kutztown to College Boulevard (It is named Normal Avenue on the opposite side of West Main street). If traveling from Reading turn **LEFT** onto **College Boulevard**, after about 3/10 mile you will be passing the Kutztown Fairgrounds on the right, on the left will be a bus shelter with Camillo's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria advertised on it, turn **LEFT** and you will be facing towards the distant gigantic white KU tower, continue along this road and bear left past the **Pennsylvania National Guard Amory** and you will enter the Lytle Hall parking lot. If lost at the last minute when following these instructions **PANIC** then call Roger's cell **570-401-2891**, who will try not to panic when his cell phone rings, and he will try to put you back on track.

See you on Saturday at the Lytle parking lot.

Roger

570-384-1274 (e-mail. fiatlux@shenhgts.net)

cc. Dave Fox