

FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT
GETTYSBURG BUS TRIP
21/22 JUNE 2003

BARRY ADAMS HAS DEVELOPED a very meaningful experience for the First Defenders. You will *become* a specific Union soldier [from an area called Berks County] whose destiny lay in the small Pennsylvania town of Gettysburg. That soldier—you, along with thousands of other soldiers, will become entrenched in the ongoing struggle to preserve the Union—and hopefully emerge unscathed to see the dawn of yet another battle-weary day. You will travel his footsteps. You will see the hallowed ground upon which he trod. You will discover if he became victorious or vanquished. You will feel his fate...

Thanks, Barry—from all of us. We know your passion for Gettysburg can only be exceeded by witnessing the first moments of your grandson's life!

Everyone is encouraged to wear the First Defenders shirt on Saturday.

We can only wait ten minutes for late arrivals, unless we are notified of your whereabouts and circumstances. **Rich Kennedy's cell phone number: 610.780. 9725.** Also, feel free to give this number to family members in case of an emergency. [Two years ago Cathie and I were en route to Kutztown for the bus trip and were detained at a R.R. crossing in Lyons...and then the slow-moving freight train just stopped. *Dead.* After waiting endless minutes, we decided to back-track. We had a cell phone, but no number to call anyone to apprise our plight.]

Comfortable shoes? Water bottles? Insect repellent?

Questions? Concerns? 610.779.6923 Communication!

Please return the enclosed entrée selection no later than **9 June 2003...** Thanks!

Richard Kennedy
114 Old Spies Church Road
Reading, PA 19606

Days Inn has advised me that they have set aside a block of non-smoking rooms. They cannot guarantee any special requests prior to arrival. If anyone desires specific arrangements that have *not* been met with your assigned room, please inquire at the desk and they will attempt to accommodate you at that time.

To reach the Kutztown University parking lot:

Travel along Main Street 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. Travel three-tenths mile after you turn off West Main Street. [You will be passing the Kutztown Fairgrounds on your right.] There will be a bus shelter on the left with *Camillo's Italian restaurant & Pizzeria* advertisement on it. Turn LEFT [you will immediately be facing the gigantic, white KU tower in the distance. Continuing along this road, you will bear left and pass the Pennsylvania National Guard Armory on the right as well as two military tanks. You will directly enter the KU parking lot.

"... Even the best-laid plans of mice and men oft go awry...."

SATURDAY

7:00 AM Depart Kutztown University parking lot
9:30 Arrive Gettysburg Visitors Center
10:00 Commence battlefield tour
12:30PM Lunch at General Pickett's Buffet
1:30-4:30 Continue battlefield tour
5:00 Arrive Days Inn Motel, Chambersburg
6:45 Depart Motel for dinner
6:52 Arrive *The Orchards Restaurant*. [Speaker Karlton Smith: The Invasion of Chambersburg.]
9:00[+/-] Depart restaurant for brief visit to historic Chambersburg [Comments by Bob Shuman]
9:45[+/-] Return Days Inn

SUNDAY

7:30AM[+/-] Continental breakfast and Days Inn checkout
[Please clear your room account if you have made any telephone calls or other charges]
8:30 Depart for Gettysburg to continue the battlefield tour
12 Noon Return to Visitor's Center/town area for lunch and leisure at individual expense. [Barry will offer an optional reflective walk in the National Cemetery at Noon. Anyone wishing to join Barry for all of the walk, or any portion thereof, is welcome to do so.]
2:00PM Depart for Berks County
4:30 Arrive at Kutztown University parking lot

Saturday's touring sites will include:

- ❖ *The Lutheran Seminary* to the 151st PA monument on *McPherson Ridge*. We will follow the silent footsteps of the 151st PV as they arrived, deployed, re-deployed, and fought at McPherson Ridge and at the Seminary.
- ❖ Move up to *Oak Ridge* and walk footsteps of the 88th PA to Mummasburg Road where they challenged O'Neal's brigade. Realign along Oak Ridge to engage Iverson's Brigade. Note: The valor of the 151st contributed to the many casualties of the 26th N. Carolina. [This CSA regiment suffered the greatest number of casualties among all CSA regiments at Gettysburg.] Efforts of the 88th resulted in casualties for Iverson's N. Carolina Brigade. [This CSA brigade had the greatest percentage of losses at Gettysburg...exceeding even those brigades in Pickett's Charge.]

- ❖ Three regiments with close Berks County connections fought in or near the *Wheatfield*. The 53rd PV of Brooke's Brigade, Caldwell's Division assisted in clearing the Wheatfield. Unfortunately, they out-paced their supports and encountered significant resistance.
- ❖ The 93rd and 96th PV were positioned around the *John Weikert Farm*, near the Wheatfield road. [The 93rd was comprised mostly of men from Lebanon County, but also included quite a few Berks Countians.] Company G of the 96th PA was from the Hamburg/Windsor Township area.

Sunday's touring sites will include where the Berks County units deployed:

- ❖ 6th PA Cav. [several CWRT members have a special interest here] on *South Cavalry field*.
- ❖ 1st PA Cav., 46th PA Vols. [*Culp's Hill*].
- ❖ Halt our journey at an artillery battery; assign positions to each participant, conduct a simulated drill.
- ❖ Examine the ground upon which the 20th Maine and the 15th Alabama fought and struggled for ownership... Admittedly, not very Berks county-ish. However, visitors always enjoy the particulars, and need to hear the accurate story—in contrast to Hollywood's rendering.
- ❖ *General Pickett's Charge* [not the buffet].



IS EVERYONE HAPPY?

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

September 2003

Round Table Business

There's an old song with some words that say "it's a long long time from May to December but the days grow short when we reach September." While December is still some time away September will soon be with us, and September 9, 2003 marks the opening meeting for the seventh campaign of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table. Your Round Table Newsletter extends a sincere welcome back to all members and a big welcome to any and all new members who will be joining us for the coming year and beyond. As in past years we can look forward to the friendship and fellowship of old friends who look to the years of the American Civil War as a period in our nations history that we all hold in the highest regard. We also can look ahead to the fine work of the Round Table in our continued efforts regarding preservation of our National Civil War landmarks and battlefields.

As we begin our new campaign we have some business items and information to review from our May 2003 meeting. Most of our May business meeting was directed to our June field trip to Gettysburg. We had an outstanding trip and I will provide a review of this trip in this newsletter.

President Dave Valuska reviewed the issue of Round Table officers for this coming year and by membership acclaim all of our present slate of officers will be retained for the coming year. If any change takes place regarding the officer slate we will present that information in a future newsletter.

Rich Kennedy advises our planned day trip to Philadelphia is scheduled for October 11, 2003. Details for this trip were not available to the newsletter at time of this writing, but should be presented to the membership shortly.

Arlan Christ presented this treasurer's report at the May meeting. A balance of \$3,914.82, new income \$ 5,234.00, new expenses \$1,157.99 providing a new balance of \$7,990.83. Arlan's report at our September meeting should provide a more exacting view of our present Round Table finances.

Jack Gurney provided an 1862 British two banded Enfield rifle with a 28inch sword type bayonet for our review. Jack advised the Round Table that some 900,000 of this type rifle were imported for Union and Confederate forces. He indicated this type rifle was shorter and more popular than the three banded type rifle.

Arlan Christ provided a painting titled "Tomorrow We Must Attack Him." This is a famous painting of the meeting of Generals Lee and Longstreet in the area of the Lutheran Seminary late on the afternoon of July 1, 1863. The meeting depicts Lee's position of attacking the Federal forces on Cemetery Hill while Longstreet suggests a move to the right to position the Confederate Army between the Army of the Potomac and the City of Washington. We all know what followed this discussion between these two fine officers.

While not completely available at this time the Newsletter hopes to present a schedule of programs and speakers for the coming year. Look for this schedule in our October newsletter. Rich Kennedy has done a great job of putting together this year's programs and we should have complete details by next month.

A final note on our May meeting is the attendance figure of 93 members and guest. This was a great turnout to complete our sixth year, lets kept it going with a fine turnout to start our new year.

Book Raffle / Preservation

Tom Tate advises we sold 197 tickets at our May meeting worth \$197.00. As noted on a number of occasions all ticket monies go to preservation. Our April preservation fund was \$1,416.00, adding the May sales money of \$197.00 we had a new balance in preservation dollars of \$1,613.00 at the end of May and our sixth campaign. At our May meeting the membership approved preservation awards of \$500.00 to The Friends of the National Park at Gettysburg and \$500.00 to our friends at Kernstown Battlefield. Any additional awards will be announced as they are reviewed and approved by the membership.

Tom states the Round Table starts the new campaign with a good supply of books for our coming raffles. As always we encourage strong membership support of our raffles to help us build a strong preservation fund. Last year's effort was great and the Round Table thanks all members for their generous contributions. Come to the meetings with heavy pockets, buy tickets to lighten your load. It's a great way to "lose weight."

As preservation chairman Tom Tate requests all members of the Round Table to continue our good work in this important environment and make our seventh campaign a success.

May Program Review

Our speaker for our May meeting was Troy Harmon who serves as a Park Ranger, the past 13 years, at Gettysburg. Troy's topic was "Lee's Real Plan at Gettysburg." Troy identified Cemetery Hill as Lee's objective and taking this position as key to victory at Gettysburg.

To prepare for his invasion of the North, or perhaps better stated his raid into the North, General Lee wanted effective maps of the area. In February 1863 he requested Captain Jedediah Hotchkiss to scout the area from Northern Virginia to the Pennsylvania capitol of Harrisburg and then to Philadelphia and provide maps of these areas. Hotchkiss was a Topographical Engineer assigned as General Jackson's cartographer. Lee used these maps in his raid into the North, even though he was not real comfortable with their accuracy. Gettysburg while not Lee's specific target was a key area because of the roads leading into and away from the town. Troy continued to comment on the road issue and noted the Hagerstown road was very important as it was viewed as a supply road from the South for the Army of Northern Virginia. In addition roads to such major cities as Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington made information about Gettysburg very important to General Lee.

With his army in the area about Gettysburg, Lee was held up by a lack of information he hoped to obtain from "Jeb" Stuart. While waiting information from Stuart he used the time to forage and gather food for his army and animals, but he was "on the clock" and time was not his best ally while in Northern territory. When General Meade began to

concentrate the Army of the Potomac at Gettysburg, Lee was forced to fight at a location not of his choice and the battle was on.

Mr. Harmon did not review the Battle of Gettysburg this was not his intention. He presented some comments regarding key locations on the battlefield and presented a new, or at least different view, of the area referred to as the "clump of trees." Troy stated that Lee's position on Seminary Ridge gave him a good view of Cemetery Hill and Ridge, plus a view of Culp's Hill and the Round Tops. He noted that a discussion with General Ewell, on the night of July 1, led to an agreement to attack Culp's Hill, if this was successful the Confederates could attack Cemetery Hill and Ridge from a stronger position and bring a cross fire on the Federal positions in the so called "fish hook" area of those positions. This area was held at that time by somewhat disorganized 11th. Corps troops. A French officer attending the battle as an observer suggested Cemetery Hill as the key position to the battle and its loss would cause the Union Army to be forced to withdraw.

Troy stated that the Round Tops were not an objective for General Lee, but Little Round Top became important when the Union forces occupied the hill. General Sickles move of the Federal 3rd. Corps from Cemetery Ridge to the Peach Orchard area also caused the Confederates to change their plan from an attack north up the Emmitsburg Road to a bloody battle in the Peach Orchard and Wheatfield areas. On the third day of the battle he defined the great charge by stating General Pettigrew's force was a left jab, while General Pickett's force was a right hook.

At this point Mr. Harmon made what I believe we all viewed as a different, and probably a first, view of the objective of the July 3 attack. Generally we believe the Confederate attack was aimed at the "Copse of Trees" in the area known as the "angle" on Cemetery Ridge, Harmon however stated that Lee's target was the larger tree area of Ziegler's Grove on Cemetery Hill. Because Federal fire from Cemetery Ridge so devastated the Confederate attack most Confederates who reached the Federal lines were pressed into the area of the "angle" and the small "clump of trees" this fact of the battle has caused a mental block in accepting and understanding Lee's plan and objective.

Troy suggested that this interpretation would bring about a number of questions and require additional study by historians of the battle, but it introduces a new and most interesting fact, or fiction, of the great charge of July 3, 1863. We can all look forward to future comments regarding this interpretation it could prove very interesting.

Our thanks to Troy Harmon for his fine presentation and the possible opening of a new chapter on the Battle of Gettysburg.

June Field Trip Review

As we gathered together on June 20 of this year, in the parking lot at Kutztown University, it appeared those of us going on our field trip were experiencing a repeat of our June 15, 2002 field trip. Our weather was again dark and dreary, and our bus was again a half hour late in arriving to pick us up. However, once under way our spirits lifted and at the direction of our tour leader, Rich Kennedy, we became a bus full of "happy people." To make sure we stayed happy Rich assigned a number of us as "happy police" to keep the smiles coming. As no arrest was made I believe we all remained "happy" during our two day trip.

Much of the credit, better stated all of the credit, goes to Rich who did a great job in making the arrangements for our tour and to our guide and chief spokesperson Barry

Adams who, I am safe and certain in stating, provided us with an outstanding and meaningful experience as our battlefield guide. It goes without saying I cannot review every detail of our trip, space and my personal memory prevent this from taking place. I will try to present some of the highlights during the two days of our trip.

As we proceeded to Gettysburg Barry assigned each of us the name of a specific Union soldier, from the Berks County area, and presented their contributions to the battle as we visited the battlefield locations of the Regiments they served in during the three days of battle. The soldiers we represented had the same experiences as the many thousands of both Union and Confederate soldiers who fought and died in the three days at Gettysburg.

Approximately some 350 Federal regiments, and other units, were present at Gettysburg each with their own story to tell. For the purpose of our tour Barry focused on the regiments with Berks County men primarily the 151st., 88th., 53rd., 46th., 93rd., 96th. Infantry and the 1st. and 6th. Cavalry. To be sure there were other regiments with Berks, Schuylkill, Lehigh and Lebanon County troops but the regiments listed and the areas they fought in was the main focus of our tour. Of the above units listed the 151st., 88th. and 53rd. Pennsylvania received the most attention during our visit.

Starting with the 151st. Regiment Barry located their position on McPherson Ridge, present day Reynolds and Meredith Avenues, at 3PM on July 1 and their heavy engagement with the 26th. and 11th. North Carolina Regiments. Following their brief but deadly encounter he directed us to the location they moved to on Seminary Ridge at 4PM and met the 14th. South Carolina at this position. On July 2 the remnants of the regiment were positioned on the southeast slopes of Cemetery Hill. Late in the day they re-enforced the Federal line on the ridge south of the "copse of trees." On July 3, on line near the 1st. Minnesota, they engaged units of Kemper and Garnett's Confederate Brigades during the great charge on this day. The 151st. ranked second in greatest total loss, ninth in percentage loss, fifth in number of men killed and first in number of wounded in this battle. Going into the battle the 151st. had about 467 officers and men, when the shattered regiment reached their position on Cemetery Hill they assembled some 113 officers and men on the morning of July 2. Barry noted General Doubleday profusely praised the regiment for their courage on July 1 and indicated they saved the Federal 1st. Corps and contributed in saving the Army of the Potomac.

The 88th. Regiment position was on Oak Ridge just south of the Mummasburg Road and northwest of the town of Gettysburg, present day Doubleday Avenue. They engaged in heavy action on July 1 with O'Neal's Alabama and Iverson's North Carolina Brigades. On July 3 they were used to re-enforce a number of locations on the Federal line on Cemetery Ridge. The 151st. and 88th. Regiments were units of the Federal 1st. Corps. The 88th. Pennsylvania has a beautiful monument identifying the regiment's position on Oak Hill. This monument was made by P.F. Eisenbrown Sons Company located on Route 61 in Reading, Pennsylvania.

Our 53rd. Regiment, Federal 2nd. Corps, Brooke's Brigade was one of the units sent to re-enforce the Federal line in the area of the Wheatfield. This Brigade, with the 53rd. Pennsylvania pushed the Confederate forces in the area beyond the Wheatfield to the west edge of the Rose Woods, present day Brooke Avenue, it was at this point its advance faltered. Though a successful charge they found themselves under attack from the front and on the left and trouble soon to come on the right. Barry noted that at one

point Colonel Brooke directed his units standing on a boulder behind the Brigades left center. Following a short fight, the position of the 53rd. and other brigade regiments was no longer tenable and these units were ordered back to the area of the Wheatfield Road.

In reviewing the sites and actions of these three regiments Barry continued to point out the contributions of the individual men we were assigned. In addition we visited the locations of the other regiments noted. The 46th. Pa. about 100 yards northeast of Spangler's Spring on Slocum Avenue, 93rd. Pa. Wheatfield Road, northeast of the Wheatfield, 96th. Pa. also in the area of the Wheatfield Road, 6th. Pa. Cavalry west of Emmitsburg Road, South Cavalry Field and 1st. Pa. Cavalry Hancock Avenue on Cemetery Ridge south of "copse of trees." In viewing the locations of our key regiments our tour covered much of the battlefield and we had the opportunity to see a great deal of the National Park.

In speaking of the men assigned to each of us of particular interest was the fact that ten men of the Straus family of the Strausstown, Pennsylvania area all served in the 151st. Regiment. Fellow member Mike Straus reviewed the fate of each of these men at the location of the 151st. monument on Reynolds Avenue near the Herbst Woods.

We need also to recognize the contributions to our group made by member Bob Shuman on points of interest in the Chambersburg area and to our after dinner speaker on Saturday night, Mr. Karlton Smith who spoke to us on the Invasion of Chambersburg.

On Sunday, following already noted visits, our final visit location, for all members, was on Cemetery Ridge just south of the "copse of trees." We visited the site and monument of the 1st. Pa. Cavalry where Barry spoke of a trooper from Hamburg, Pennsylvania, Private Joseph H.A. Lindermuth. Barry stated that the monument of the 1st. Pa. Cavalry, with a trooper in a kneeling position with a weapon at the ready, was a likeness of Private Lindermuth who posed for the statue on the monument.

In addition to the tour of the Gettysburg battlefield sites on our way down to Gettysburg Barry pointed out and spoke of action that took place before the battle at Gettysburg. This action took place between Confederate Cavalry and Union Militia units in the present day Camp Hill, Pennsylvania area. Battle sites were identified as Oyster Point, Sporting Hill, Peace Church and Forts Couch and Washington. Barry noted casualties in these actions were slightly favorable to the Union forces.

On Sunday about noon Barry offered an optional walk in the National Cemetery for those interested, this concluded our tour and at 2PM we boarded the bus for the return trip home.

As stated early in this review this was at best a brief look at our tour. Most of our attention centered on the three regiments, the 151st., 88th. and 53rd. we can say each of these regiments brought great honor to Pennsylvania, Berks County and to themselves. I know all of us who made the trip were very pleased and we owe a great deal of thanks to both Barry Adams and Rich Kennedy for making this trip exceptional. Our thanks to both of you.

Did You Know

Let's take a brief look at the Fleets of the Civil War. At the start of the war the Union did not have much of a naval fleet, and the Confederacy none at all. Nevertheless, the Civil War was not only a land war it was also a naval war. It is fair to say the Union's naval service was as responsible for the defeat of the Confederacy as were the Union's armies.

The normal strength of the United States Navy, if it could be considered a navy at all, was 90 vessels in 1861. Of this 90 many of them were obsolete old sailing ships of the line, frigates, sloops and brigs. In their day splendid vessels, but their day had passed. For the Union about 60% of these ships were actually in commission and some of the commissioned ships were on distant stations. The U S Navy had slender resources indeed to commence a major war. Since the naval material of the United States was not on a respectable pre war footing, and as no provisions had been made for its conversion to a war-footing, measures adopted by the Union to enlarge and improve the navy were driven by the exigencies of the moment and of course the war. This led the Federal Government to purchase some 418 vessels, which included every variety of merchantman and river steamboat, that could be adapted in the navy yards for war service. Fortunately the Union could draw upon the enormous resources of the seafaring North, so by war's end well over 700 vessels had seen commissioned service, including about 60 ironclads. All the ironclads were of the Monitor type except for three.

The situation of the Confederacy was by no means so rosy. At the start of the war the South seized not a single "useful vessel" from the United States Navy. Of the few vessels taken only the steam frigate USS Merrimac could be restored to service, as an ironclad, and this only after a year's effort. The Confederacy did seize a number of miscellaneous type vessels from the United States Government. These vessels formed the nucleus of the Confederate States Navy. Altogether, at one time or another the Confederacy seems to have commissioned nearly 175 warships of various types, including 14 ironclads. The South also had work under way on 50 additional ironclads and some 100 other type vessels that probably never saw action by the end of the war. Their effort was prodigious and was marked by a considerable degree of success.

Since the South entered upon the war without any naval preparation, and with very limited resources its deficiencies could not well be improved promptly. It would hardly be possible to imagine a great maritime country, such as the South saw itself, more destitute of the means for carrying on a naval war. Because of the South's limited resources the closest the Confederacy came to the North's number of commissioned warships was in early 1862 when they reached 13.2% of the North's vessels, some 35 Confederate to 265 Union. Obviously relative strength resides with the Union. In terms of warship losses during the war the total count would be 69 Union and 122 Confederate. This includes vessels lost in combat, those captured, scuttled and lost to the hazards of the sea.

The Confederate Government depended almost wholly upon Europe for sea-going cruisers. The most famous of which were the CSS Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Shenandoah. All of these ships made successful commerce destroying cruises.

Regarding naval personal in 1861 the Union Navy had 1,457 officers of all grades, this number would quickly become inadequate to supply the demands of a wartime navy. It became necessary to employ volunteer officers, 7,500 of whom were enrolled during the war. These men came chiefly from the merchant marine service. A larger change took place in the enlisted men force where normal strength of 7,600 seamen rose during the war to 51,500. Finding recruits became difficult and toward the end of the war enormous bounties became necessary. The number of officers who left the United States Navy to join the Southern cause was 322, of whom 243 were line officers. In seamen the South was deficient, not having a seafaring population. The number of enlisted men in the

Confederate Navy at any given time was probably less than 4,000. Since the South seldom took the offense in their naval enterprises, no very extensive force was required. The four principal commerce raiders mentioned previously were chiefly manned by foreign sailors.

In many ways the navies started with the same problems and issues as the armies, they both started from scratch. On the oceans and the inland waterways the Union and Confederate navies played an important role in the outcome of the American Civil War.

Civil War Usage

Let Her Go Gallagher---This enigmatic command meant to fire at will and with anything at hand.

Wire Road---Unlike plank and corduroy roads, these thoroughfares were not named for the material that covered them but rather because a telegraph line or wire was strung beside them.

Forecastle---The forward portion of a ship, named for the fact that the front of many medieval warships was built to look like a fortified castle.

General Orders---A set of orders that outlined the action to be taken by specified bodies of soldiers. Most commanders of armies issued general orders, each of which was numbered separately, and a few came from high-ranking civil officials, such as the President.

September Quiz

Q.1 Major General Joseph Hooker had his "ups and downs" in his military career during the Civil War. He seems to be remembered for the "downs" more than his positive contributions. Shortly after taking command of the Army of the Potomac on January 26, 1863 General Hooker instituted a quiet revolution in operational systems that led to some solid success regarding enemy intentions. Can you identify Hooker's creation?

Q.2 On November 26, 1864 Major General Winfield Scott Hancock bade farewell to his 2nd. Corps and returned to Washington to assume a new assignment. In this two part question: 1) Who replaced General Hancock as commander of the 2nd. Corps, and 2) What was Hancock's new assignment?

Q.3 In the Battle of Franklin (Tennessee), fought on November 30, 1864 the Confederate Army of Tennessee suffered a serious setback and heavy casualties. Among the Confederate casualties was the death of five General officers. Can you name these five Confederate Generals killed in this battle?

September Meeting

We will inaugurate our seventh campaign with our September meeting to be held on **Tuesday September 9, 2003**. Our meeting time will be 6:30PM at The Inn at Moselem Springs. We request dinner reservations and meal selections be made by **Wednesday September 3rd**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533**. Please make your reservation by our cutoff date. Our dinner selections for September's meeting will be **Quakertown Roast, Baked Ziti and Grilled Salmon**. Our meal price for our September meeting will be \$15.00. If you make a reservation and dinner selection for the meeting and find you are unable to attend please commit to paying for the meal to save the Round Table the expense.

Rich Kennedy, our program chairman, advises our speaker for our September meeting will be Major Victor Tumility. Major Tumility teaches U S Naval History at the United States Naval Academy, our speaker has a Masters degree in Civil War History.

Major Tumility has served 17 years in the United States Army he will speak on Naval Issues and Activities in the Civil War. As this is the first meeting of our new campaign and our program will address a topic we have heard little about in past years this is an evening we should look forward to spending with the Round Table. Let's open this year with a good turnout and get the Round Table off to a solid seventh campaign. Look forward to seeing you all on September 9th.

Breaking News

I know, it sounds like a television news broadcast. I stated early in the newsletter we had not received information on our pending Philadelphia Day trip on October 11th. I have been notified by Rich Kennedy an attachment to the newsletter will be sent to all members with information on the trip. Please review this information, especially if you have an interest in going on this Philadelphia trip. There is a time element involved that you will want to address regarding reservations for the trip.

Final Comment

I noted at the start of the newsletter it's a long long time from May to December, well if you read this entire newsletter you probably think it has been a long long time from start to finish, it has, with that I'll again welcome everyone back to a new campaign and tell you I'm out of here!

Tony Reilly---Newsletter Editor

FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT
PHILADELPHIA BUS TRIP

Saturday 11 October 2003
\$43.00 p/p

This trip will fill very quickly! Seating is available for 50 people [happy]. Persons currently listed on the First Defenders CWRT membership roster will have early priority.

Cost of this trip is \$43.00 p/p... all inclusive.

Membership deadline: Trip forms/checks must be received by Friday, 5 September 2003. Postmarks may be a factor.

After the deadline date, seating will be available to any individual. Please include name, phone number of any non-member desiring to be placed on the fill-list in the event that seating is not completed by the deadline. Please do not enclose check for a non-member until there is availability confirmation by telephone.

Post completed forms and \$43.00 check per person to:

Richard Kennedy
114 Old Spies Church Road
Reading, PA 19606

Questions? Concerns? Telephone 610.779.6923 e-mail: Kenwyckel@AOL
Communication!

THERE WILL BE 2 P/U POINTS!

Wearing First Defenders shirts is definitely encouraged. If not then... when?

Rich Kennedy's cell phone... 610.780.9725

7:30 AM...Departure from Kutztown University's Lytle Hall parking lot.

[Travel along Main Street 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. Travel 3/10 mile after you turn off West Main Street... You will be passing the Kutztown Fairgrounds on your right. There will be a bus shelter on the left with *Camillo's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria* advertisement on it. Turn LEFT... You will immediately be facing the gigantic, white KU tower in the distance. Continuing along this road, you will bear left and pass the Pennsylvania National Guard Armory on the right as well as two military tanks. You will directly enter the Lytle Hall parking lot.

8:00 AM...Departure from Broadcasting Square Mall. [Near Spring Ridge.] Parking will be in front of *Marshall's*, near the interior road. [Watch for Russ and Julia Angstadt frantically waving their arms.]

9:30 AM... Arrive National Park Visitors Center, 3rd & Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia.
Meet Dr. Anthony [Andy] Waskie] who is conducting the tour [15 minutes
respite for personal needs].

9:45 AM... Driving tour of Civil War related sites in Olde City.

11:00 AM... Union League tour.

12 Noon... Buffet lunch at McGillin's Olde Ale House... only steps away from the UL.
[Hot and cold selections, hot/cold beverages included w/gratis refills. Cash
bar for all other libations.] This is an Irish pub... the buffet has to be good!
We will have second-floor privacy.

1 PM..... Tour Civil War Library & Museum. [Pine Street].

2PM..... Drive Franklin Parkway/Art Museum East River Drive to Laurel Hill Cemetery.

3 PM..... Tour Laurel Hill [General Meade].

4 PM..... West Fairmount Park: Civil War monument, Meade monument, Memorial
Hall, GAR Monument, tour GAR Museum.

5 PM-ish... Depart Philadelphia.

6:30 PM-ish... Return Broadcasting Square Mall.

7:00 PM-ish... Return KU.

“...Even the best-laid plans of mice and men oft go awry....”

First Defenders CWRT
Philadelphia Bus Trip
Saturday 11 October 2003
Cost \$43.00 p/p

Member name[s] _____

Phone _____

I/we will be boarding at: [please circle one]

7:30AM... KU Lytle Hall parking lot

8:00AM... Broadcasting Square Mall [Marshall's]

Non-member desiring to be placed on stand-by list.

Name _____

Phone _____

Please do not include non-member check until phone confirmation.

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

October 2003

Round Table Business

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table welcomed back 72 members and guest to our September meeting the opening meeting of our seventh campaign. With a full slate of business items Rich Kennedy opened with a review of a September Board of Directors meeting. The first item reviewed was our coming bus trip to Philadelphia scheduled for Saturday October 11. Rich noted he had received 28 reservations as of the date of our meeting. He also stated he would begin accepting request from interested people who are not members of the Round Table.

The Round Table will purchase new shirts with our logo if we receive enough orders for these shirts. The shirts will be red with a blue collar since we cannot obtain shirts with our present color arrangement. Rich presented a sample of the new shirt at our September meeting. The expected cost of the shirts will be \$25.00 any change in this price we will let you know. Stay tuned for additional information regarding the shirts.

A review of our program schedule was presented I will post this schedule later in this newsletter. Rich made a request to the membership asking anyone interested in working with the Program Committee to speak to a board member regarding your interest, we can use the help and participation.

We have been notified by Moselem Springs of an increase in meal cost to \$16.00 per order, we will be increasing our meal cost to our members to the \$16.00 charge starting with our October meeting, this is our first increase since our first meeting. To assist Arlan and Pat we request members to have \$1.00 bills for that extra meal charge. We will have a supply of \$1.00 bills at our entrance table, but your \$1.00 bill will help, please keep this in mind.

The Eastern Pennsylvania CWRT of Allentown has extended an invitation to us to participate in an annual program they have each year in the Whitehall, Pennsylvania area. The program will be in June 2004. We will have more information on this at future meetings to help us make a decision.

A suggestion by a member at the May meeting to consider a scholarship, or help to a needy student, has been voted down by the Board of Directors. Our main reason is to allow the Round Table to build our monetary funds for use in preservation projects we view the Round Table as a preservation oriented organization.

The Board of Directors decided to hold some of our preservation funds to make them available if a special emergency situation in the scope of preservation should develop. Any such situation developing for us to consider committing the funds would be reviewed with the membership.

As we have done in the past few years our January 2004 program will continue to be our Round Table discussion with membership participation. Our topic for the January program will be "who was your unsung hero at the Battle of Gettysburg." We bring this to your attention now to give members time to think about the question. Keep in mind the

key word is "unsung" this eliminates many participants in the battle who have received a great deal of historical recognition for what they accomplished. At our November meeting we may request if anyone has a name to submit for discussion, you can give a comment or two regarding your choice if you so desire. Give this some thought and participate in the discussion all members have the right and opportunity to give your views. You do not have to be a historian in fact members views can be just as interesting as those given by historians. Pitch in and we can all benefit and enjoy our annual discussion and program.

Getting an early start information was presented regarding our 2004 annual field trip. We are looking at a two-day trip, possibly two nights depending on location. Trip locations being considered are the Manassas battlefields, Petersburg and the Pamplin Park Museum and battlefields south of Petersburg including Reams Station, Peeble's Farm, Dinwiddie Court House, White Oak Road and Five Forks. If any member has a location they wish to recommend please present it at our next meeting, all choices will be reviewed. Stay tuned much more to come on the field trip.

Mike Gabriel was returned to the Board of Directors as a member-at-large. Only good things can come from this appointment. Mike has been a "Top Gun" for the Round Table.

Arlan Christ presented the following treasurer's report. Balance as of 5-13-03 \$7,990.83, new income \$1,685.00 new expenses \$6,380.15 new balance \$3,295.68. This report includes the income and expenses of our June 2003 field trip to Gettysburg. Arlan also noted our preservation balance is \$613.00. This does not include raffle ticket sales at our September meeting Tom Tate's report will update that figure.

Pat Christ our membership chairwomen advised we have 33 renewals for the coming year. A renewal form will accompany this newsletter please fill out and return to Pat as soon as possible, if you plan to renew and we hope you do, membership dues remains at \$15.00. Access to membership for those on our waiting list depends on the number of renewals. Your prompt attention and response to this issue is important.

As a reminder in the December 2002 newsletter we established a "sunshine message" to be used when a member is hospitalized or passes away. An appropriate card from the Round Table would be sent. Cathy Kennedy has accepted the responsibility of sending the message. The success of this program depends on a member notifying Cathy if they know of one of these facts. Her telephone number is 610-779-6923 her e-mail address is Kenywckel@aol.com.

Our History Table

Arlan Christ provided two excellent prints of naval warfare at the September meeting. The first print titled "Southern Hospitality" by Tom Freeman in 1993 identifies Confederate coastal artillery at the northwest barbette of Fort Jackson defending the Mississippi River and New Orleans in the battle for the city on April 15-25, 1862. The Federal warships in the print are USS Hartford, Brooklyn, Richmond and Sciota all from Flag Officer David Farragut's squadron. The second print titled "Ashes to Iron" also by Tom Freeman in 1992 identifies the CSS Virginia and her attack on the USS Cumberland at Hampton Roads on March 8, 1862. The CSS Teaser is also a part of the painting. Both of these prints represent excellent naval scenes and actions. Our thanks to Arlan for making them available for our review.

Jack Gurney, always at the ready with items of interest for us, provided two military pistols used in the Civil War. A model 1858 Remington Army 6 shot 44 caliber cap and

ball pistol carried by David Adams of Co. I, 5th Illinois Cavalry and an 1860 model Colt 6 shot 44 caliber cap and ball pistol carried by John Afton of Co. K, 7th Michigan Cavalry. Jack advised that 132,000 of the Remington pistols were manufactured and 250,000 Colts. He indicated the Remington was a stronger made unit, but the Colt had access to an extra cylinder for easy reloading. A picture of David Adams and his wife Cora were also made available for review. Thank you Mr. Gurney.

Book Raffle / Preservation

Tom Tate provides good news for our raffle kickoff in our new season. The membership purchased \$126.00 worth of raffle tickets in September. Because of book donations, we picked up two more books from members there were no new book expenses. Adding the \$126.00 to our \$613.00 balance gives us a new preservation fund balance of \$739.00. This is a great start and the Round Table thanks the membership for losing that pocket weight.

Tom request the following member request placed in the newsletter. Tom states he was approached after the September meeting about awarding a deserving student a free trip on one of our field trips. This request is sort of a modification of our scholarship question. Details regarding this request would have to be reviewed at a future meeting. This issue will remain open to discussion.

In the area of preservation we have received some good news from our friends at Kernstown Battlefield. On August 28, 2003, after a three-year effort, two public grants paid off the remaining \$420,000 mortgage principal and this ensures the complete and permanent protection of this battlefield. The total original cost was \$4,000,000. Our Round Table played a small but important role in saving this battlefield with our preservation gifts to Kernstown. Those \$1.00 raffle tickets have meaning.

September Program Review

Our speaker for our September meeting was Major Victor Tumilty who has served seventeen years in the United States Army. Major Tumilty's topic was "Naval Operations in the Civil War." If we found it odd that an army officer presented a naval topic, we were put to rest by Major Tumilty's fine presentation and the personal credentials he brought with him an instructor at the United States Naval Academy with a Masters Degree in Civil War History.

Ron Rhein introduced our speaker and got our attention with a key comment stating "tonight's program is a new approach with a talk on naval operations." He further noted this is a topic we have heard little about in past programs.

Our speaker, utilizing a slide presentation, covered a multitude of naval operation including comments on key naval battles, blockade factors, commerce raiders and the importance of combined army and navy operations. In this review we will not cover the details of the battles Major Tumilty spoke of but will try to note a number of key points he presented in his talk.

Major Tumilty opened his remarks by stating the Union Navy did not have to exercise supremacy, not achieve it or create it, on the high seas. The condition of the Confederate Navy at the start of the war, with no warships, made Union supremacy a fact. Two men were given the responsibilities for establishing wartime naval powers and time was a major factor. For the Union Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles and for the Confederacy Secretary Stephen R. Mallory received these important assignments. Welles was a Connecticut newspaper editor who knew little of ships or naval strategies at the

time of his appointment while Mallory had been Chairman of the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs prior to the war and was much better prepared for the job he faced. Our speaker noted that Mr. Welles did a fair job with the Union Navy especially in the areas of innovation, modernization and increasing the size of the Union Navy in men, materials and ships for war. He further noted that Mr. Mallory, due to his naval affairs background, was progressive in matters of naval design and expressed interest in the future of ironclad warships.

Mr. Welles first interest was to close the seaports and inland waterways to Confederate shipping by utilizing a "blockade." This fact was well done during the war. Secretary Mallory understood if a blockade were to be broken, the Confederacy would have to challenge then Union Navy with a relatively small number of specialized ships and by defending sea and inland ports with well constructed and armed forts.

The Union established four blocking squadrons, the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, West Gulf and East Gulf Squadrons commanded by Flag Officers Goldsborough, DuPont, McKean and Farragut. The Union and their naval forces faced two primary problems the first was a need to establish land bases in the south to be able to effectively supply their warships with coal. To do this they had to destroy and capture coastal forts not an easy task due to the large area they had to blockade. The second problem was to stop and or intercept Confederate blockade-runners. In this enterprise they did very well capturing 1,149 runners and destroying another 351 ships. This success despite the favorable speed the blockade-runners had over warships.

The South in addition to its success with many of her runners probably had her major naval success with her armed sea-going cruisers. These commerce raiders, especially the CSS Alabama, Florida and Shenandoah, made many successful missions at sea.

Major Tumilty spoke in detail on a number of naval engagements and added many involved combined army and navy joint operations. To name a few, without the battle details, Hampton Roads March 8, 1862 the clash of ironclads CSS Virginia and USS Monitor, Union success at Savannah and Charleston in gaining their first land bases, the battles of New Orleans and Mobile Bay major naval victories for Union forces, the famous sea battle off the French coast between CSS Alabama and USS Kearsarge on June 19, 1864 resulting in a Kearsarge victory. The battle for Fort Fisher in North Carolina saw the largest number of Union vessels ever assembled for a single battle during the war, 44 ships. On the inland water he reviewed naval activity at Forts Henry and Donaldson, the fight for Island No. 10 on the Mississippi and the combined forces operations to capture Vicksburg, Mississippi. In reviewing these battles and a few others he continued to point out the importance each fight had in the progress of the Civil War.

Our speaker's final comments addressed the technological changes that came during and after the war. The end of the era of wooden warships, the beginning of the ironclads, the introduction of limited submersibles, torpedoes and sea mines. And in some way the first aircraft carrier, an observation balloon carrier.

Major Tumilty, an army officer, did a great job presenting the Round Table with information on Naval Operations in the Civil War. During his presentation the Major placed a good deal of emphasis on the value of combined operations. I believe the Round Table had an example of present day combined operation as an army man focused his presentation on naval affairs. Our thanks to Major Victor Tumilty for visiting with us and for his much appreciated and enjoyed presentation.

Did You Know

"Give them cold steel," how often have we read this statement in regard to the Civil War and other wars. Was the bayonet as fearsome and dreadful as its long-standing reputation suggest? Lets take a look at a few facts about "cold steel." The bayonet originated in the 16th.century when the dagger used for hand-to-hand combat was inserted into the muzzle end of a rifle. From then to the end of the 18th.century, the sword or dagger type bayonet was replaced by the angular socket, or ring type bayonet. Also called a "spike" bayonet, it was a foot to a foot and a half in length, round or triangular in shape it was attached to the end of a rifle, or musket if you prefer, and held in place with a slot and stud and a sleeve that fit around the end of the barrel.

While the bayonet has been in use thru modern wars a truism exists that by the time of the Civil War the bayonet had outlived its usefulness in combat. It can be stated that the bayonet's true value in the war came as a shock tactic to disorganize defenders and then to take the ground they held. Because of the fear of the bayonet men would often break when faced by attackers with gleaming bayonets. It is a fact that most, if not all, the casualties in a battle would be caused by rifle fire, but in a sense the victory would be attributed to the bayonet and this dread of "cold steel."

What caused the bayonet to lose its usefulness by the Civil War was simply the advancing superior range and accuracy of the rifled musket developed between wars. As terrible as bayonets may seem and the fear they put into the hearts and minds of men, few in the Civil War ever died from bayonet wounds received in combat. To be effective the bayonet had to reach a vital spot deep in the body not easily done because of bone structure. While bayonet wounds were frightening and painful they were not as devastating as bullet wounds. The bullet cuts with unimpeded force through all human structures causing death, severe damage to the body and often long recovery time, when death was not the wound result. On the other hand most bayonet wounds almost invariably healed. During Grant's overland campaign, only some fifty bayonet wounds were treated surgically at Union Army hospitals. Of 250,000 Union wounded treated in hospitals, only 922, less than 1% were victims of bayonet or saber wounds. Confederate Major General John Gordon wrote "the bristling points and the glitter of bayonets were fearful to look upon as they were leveled in front of a charging line, but they were rarely reddened with blood."

Rather than say that the Civil War and its weapons made the bayonet obsolete it is fairer to say the tactic of charging with bayonets alone ended with the Civil War. However, because of its continued usefulness in hand-to-hand fighting, its continued use as an infantry weapon, the bayonet is still a valued member of the arsenal of military weapons.

In the years since the Civil War the bayonet has seen many changes, I believe however, despite what I have written one change would be hard to accomplish the bayonet will still be viewed by soldiers as "this dread of cold steel."

Civil War Usage

Bounty---A financial inducement to enlist for military service. Most Northern states and numerous cities and a few Southern locales offered bounties so as to meet recruitment quotas. The amount of these inducements grew as the war continued. In some rare instances a recruit might legitimately draw bounties from federal, state and local

municipal sources, thus pocketing a sum equal to a lifetime's income based on mid 19th Century salaries.

Bounty Broker---A recruiter who received a commission on the bounties for which he enlisted soldiers.

Bounty Jumper---A deceptive practice of enlisting so as to draw a bounty, deserting at the first opportunity, and then enlisting again in another district so as to draw additional bounties. One bounty jumper, after he was apprehended, admitted to more than thirty enlistments.

Foot Cavalry---A term of admiration used to express awe at the speed with which Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's troops marched over great distances in the Shenandoah Valley during the summer of 1862.

To Occupy---To maintain an engagement with an enemy force during battle.

October Quiz

Q.1 The battle of Seven Pines or Fair Oaks fought in the late spring of 1862, as part of the Peninsula Campaign, was itself an indecisive battle with heavy casualties on both sides. Undoubtedly the most important result of this fight were two major factors. Identify these two factors?

Q.2 On June 10, 1864 Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest defeated a Federal force of 7,800; 4,800 cavalry and 3,000 infantry, in the battle of Brice's Cross Roads, Mississippi. The Federal forces were led by Brigadier General Samuel D. Sturgis. This battle was also known by two other names, can you identify these names?

Q.3 Following "Pickett's Charge" on July 3, 1863 Brigadier General Elon J. Farnsworth led his cavalry brigade in a mounted charge that would cover terrible ground. Farnsworth a somewhat forgotten hero was killed in this attack. In his death he became the only Union general officer to experience a singular fate while leading an attack during the Civil War. What was that singular fate?

October Meeting

With our seventh campaign underway we will hold our October meeting on **Tuesday October 14, 2003**. Our meeting time will be 6:30PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. We request you make dinner reservations and meal selections by **Wednesday October 8th**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533**. The Round Table here makes a special request of all members please make your reservations by our cutoff date. This is very important and helpful to us as we prepare for the coming meeting. The Round Table appreciates your cooperation in this matter. Our dinner selections for October's meeting will be **Country Ham Steak, Baked Manicotti and Baked Haddock**. Keep in mind our meal price effective with this meeting will be **\$16.00**. If you make a reservation and dinner selection for the meeting and are not able to attend please commit to paying for the meal to save the Round Table the expense. If you can cancel your reservation by the cutoff date no expense would be necessary.

One last comment on our coming meetings keep in mind the need for the \$1.00 bills, thank you.

Our speaker for our October meeting will be Melissa Delcour, her topic "the 1864 Confederate Valley Cavalry and Campaign." I believe Melissa may center her comments on Confederate Cavalry Brigadier General Lunsford Lindsay Lomax. Miss Delcour teaches high school English in the Winchester, Virginia area and works for the park service in the summer months. We should remember Melissa as our battlefield guide for

a field trip to the Wilderness and Spotsylvania battlefields a few years back. We should also remember her for the white cap identifying her as "Jeb,s Girl." We had a great opening night for our September meeting let's keep it going in October, see you all in October.

MISCELLANEOUS

As noted early in the newsletter I stated we would post a list of the monthly programs for the 2003-2004 meetings. This list will exclude September for obvious reasons.

October 2003--- "1864 Confederate Valley Cavalry and Campaign" Speaker Melissa Delcour

November 2003---"The USS Monitor and The Problems of New Tecnology" Speaker Tom Tate

December 2003---"Annual Christmas Program---Civil War Era Music" Group TBA

January 2004--- "Annual Round Table Discussion---Who Was Your Unsung Hero of Gettysburg" Membership Participation

February 2004---"The Western Campaign---The Battle of Shiloh" Speakers Dr. Ron Rhein and Dr. Michael Gabriel

March 2004---"The Black American Experience in the Civil War" Speaker Byron Childress

April 2004---"The Battle of Mobile Bay" Speaker Craig Symonds

May 2004---To Be Announced---We will provide this information as soon as we finalize The program.

Any changes that may occur in the program schedule will be noted as soon as we can. We hope none will take place.

Editor's View

From time to time we have some space available at the end of our newsletter. With this in mind I believe it is a good idea to add something new or an item of possible interest to fill out the newsletter when such an opportunity presents itself.

This feature would be open to all members who may have something they wish to share with the membership. We have done this a few times in the past. If you have something please contact me and we will work on presenting your interest. We could only publish your item when space becomes available but don't let that keep you from making a request.

With the above in mind I offer this item for your interest. I will identify this as a "book recommendation" not a full book review. At our May meeting we had a presentation by Troy D. Harman who spoke to us on the topic of "Lee's Real Plan at Gettysburg." Troy's revised book on this subject, with the same title as his talk, became available in August. If you have any interest in the battle of Gettysburg reading this book

will give you something to think about that is quite different from the traditional story so often presented by most writers. This is not to say that those writers are wrong, but this book gives a look at the objective of the battle from the Confederate position that makes you do some heavy thinking. I will provide a few lines from the Introduction of the book that should perk your interest.

“To understand the thinking behind the theory presented in this book, one needs to forget virtually everything that has previously been accepted as fact about the Confederate strategy at Gettysburg. This is not a book that allows the reader to take away a new idea to apply to his existing view of Lee’s battle plan. Simply stated, the reader cannot hold to the traditional story and understand the concept that is to be explained in the pages that follow.” This book is 121 pages of very good reading it challenges the status quo on Gettysburg. We had the good fortune to hear Mr. Harman speak now you can double your pleasure by reading his book.

If interested the book is published by Stackpole Books, cost \$19.95, its ISBN #0-8117-0054-2.

Tony Reilly---Newsletter Editor

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 2003

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Our October meeting was attended by 73 members and guest our second straight meeting with a fine turnout. Ron Rhein led our business meeting and called on Rich Kennedy for a report on our Philadelphia field trip. Rich's remarks were brief but he presented a "thumbs up" report on the trip. A review of the trip follows in the newsletter but a brief comment from the newsletter can tell you Rich and his wife Cathy did a great job to make the day a great success.

Rich provided a review regarding the purchase of new shirts for the Round Table. We have some 10 requests for shirts to date, I believe 12 request are the minimum required to place an order for the Round Table. If you are interested contact Rich Kennedy and let him know. We will continue to follow this issue at coming meetings.

A few comments were presented regarding next summers field trip. A new location has been added to our list. The New Market Battlefield and Museum in the Shenandoah Valley will be considered with the previous sites reviewed. Stay tuned more to come on the trip selection.

Arlan Christ presented the following treasurer's report. Present balance \$3,295.68, new income \$3,176.00, new expenses \$2,574.04 providing a new balance of \$3,897.64. Arlan noted we made a profit of \$105.00 on our Philadelphia trip and he recommended this money go to our preservation fund. Attending members supported this recommendation by voice vote. A full report on our preservation balance will be addressed in Tom Tate's report.

Pat Christ our membership chairwomen advised we have received 89 renewals as of our October meeting. Pat will contact members who have not renewed to determine their intentions. At this time we have no closing date on renewals but the clock is running on this issue. Pat also noted we have 12 prospective members on our waiting list. We could have a final review on this issue by our November meeting.

Pat and Arlan indicated that the \$1.00 issue at the entrance table worked well. Our thanks to the members for their cooperation please continue to help at future meetings.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Jack Gurney offered four bayonets for our review. An 1800 German Potsdam, 1822 Liege Belgium, 1816 Harper's Ferry and an 1861 British Enfield. The four units viewed were sword and angle type weapons. Jack's items fit in well with last month's "Did You Know" article on cold steel.

Arlan Christ provided the Mort Kunstler print "Battle for the Shenandoah." This print did not identify a specific battle but suggested what countless cavalry fights on horseback may well have looked like in the Civil War. Such engagements had no drawn battle lines, it was desperate and freewheeling, veterans knew the violence and horror of the cavalry

fight. A man dismounted in such a fight had little chance of survival to survive you had to win your personal engagement.

Our thanks, as always, to Jack and Arlan for providing the visual views of the men and weapons of the Civil War.

BOOK RAFFLE / PRESERVATION

Tom Tate advised the newsletter our ticket sales continued on an upward scale as we sold \$148.00 in raffle tickets for our October book raffle. This amount plus the \$105.00 profit we gained from our Philadelphia field trip gives our preservation fund a total of \$992.00. Tom stated we will use this money to support threatened sites immediately when money may be vital to preservation. Tom is investigating a situation at Cedar Creek suggested by member Paul Foust where help may be needed. Tom may have some information regarding this issue at our November meeting.

Our inventory of books to be raffled remains good and we collected two more from the membership. The recently published *April 1865* and a nice small issue of letters titled *When Will This Cruel War Be Over*. Look for them as well as some books on the USS Monitor at our November meeting.

I'll add this item to Tom's report. Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg completed the rehabilitation of The Pennsylvania Memorial that has stood on the Gettysburg battlefield for more than a century. Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell helped rededicate the Memorial on July 23 of this year. The monument had reopened to the public on July 1.

FIELD TRIP REVIEW

While our field trip to Philadelphia on October 11 gave us all a great day it was the beginning of our trip that put us in a good frame of mind. The bus was on time at Kutztown and Reading and we had no rain to contend with as we left for Philadelphia. Rich Kennedy, ably assisted by Cathy Kennedy, was our trip leader and he got us in good spirits with his entertaining light-hearted comments and his "happy check." When traveling with Rich you have to be happy or else! We had a good ride to Philly and a "bean count" of a jar full of beans provided by Rich. The winner of the count was Kay Reilly, it's nice to have a winner in the family, Kay is my sister-in-law.

Our tour guide, Dr. Anthony (Andy) Waskie, met us at the National Park Visitors Center at 3rd. & Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia and by 9:30AM we were on our way. Asked by a number of members who made the trip if I was going to be able to present in this review everything Dr. Waskie covered and commented on during our tour I could only respond by stating I am not qualified to write the "novel" of the trip. Andy initiated his dialogue as we left the visitors center and he went none stop until we dropped him off at about 5:30PM. This is not a criticism, Andy was great, we all gained a great deal of information on the part the City of Philadelphia played in the Civil War.

Without reviewing the myriad of details given to us here are a number of comments presented to us by our tour guide. At the time of the war Philadelphia had a population of some 700,000 certainly one of the largest cities in the country. While the city is most notable for its revolutionary history it has more Civil War sites than those from the period of the revolution. Philadelphia's close proximity to eastern battlefields led it to be called the arsenal of the North. The city had some twenty five hospitals during the war, two of which were considered among the largest in the world and one the Pennsylvania Hospital, founded in 1752, the oldest hospital in the United States which provided service

to wounded from both North and South. The Anna M. Ross private hospital was a home for disabled soldiers and the Cooper Shop Soldiers Home functioned as a refreshment Saloon for men passing through the city. A key point and location Andy spoke of was the Philadelphia Volunteer Refreshment Saloon located on or near the Washington Avenue rail station (1860's). The ladies of the city established and worked this site to aid soldiers moving to the front from states north of Pennsylvania. A point of clarification, saloon is not used here as indicating a drinking pub, but as a house of rest and refreshments. Most soldiers traveling to the eastern Federal armies in the south came thru Philadelphia while in route to their assignments. These refreshment saloons served some 600,000 troops with a welcome relief as they moved to their units.

The Philadelphia Navy Yard, at the time, located on the Delaware River off Washington Avenue played a major role in shipbuilding, transportation and supply during the war. John Wanamaker a name synonymous with Philadelphia had much to do with the manufacture of clothing for the Federal army and made a great deal of money from the sale of his products to the United States Government. As we traveled through the "Old City" Dr. Waskie continued to point out sites of interest including many more closely associated with the Revolutionary period of our nations history.

Dr. Waskie noted that before the war Philadelphia had an indifferent population regarding the issue of secession and the plight of the black population, which in the city was quite large. The black population in the city was a free population. The attack on Fort Sumter changed the attitude of most residents of the city. The city committed numerous units to the Pennsylvania Volunteer and Militia Organizations that served in the course of the war. This included three, six, nine months and one year regiments plus militia units for ninety and one hundred days and on occasion militia emergency service in 1862 and 1863. The greatest contribution was the three-year service of 46 infantry, 16 cavalry, 3 artillery and 1 engineer regiments, batteries and companies. Eleven infantry regiments of Colored Troops also came from Philadelphia. Probably the most famous of these regiments came from the Philadelphia Brigade, the 69th, 71st, 72nd and 106th Regiments.

Probably the high point of our tour was a visit to the renowned "Union League." The League founded in 1862 recruited 9 regiments for service and did much for the Union soldier. Its present home on South Broad Street was built in 1865. This tour of the building was very special as membership in the Union League is very special. Dr. Waskie, as a member, arranged for our visit and we are very grateful. The League holds a high place in Philadelphia history and has been very supportive of the American Military from the Civil War to today.

Our luncheon site was McGillin's Olde Ale House a pub and restaurant dating back to 1860. It is listed as a historic Philadelphia landmark. We had to hurry our lunch because of the time, but we had a very good meal and a nice welcome by the owner of the pub. Our next stop was a visit to the Civil War Library and Museum on Pine Street. This is also the home of the "Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia." There was much to see and listen to from the museum guide and of course a view of "Old Baldy" up close at least what was left of him. Our next stop of the day took us to the Laurel Hill Cemetery on Ridge Avenue. Dating back to 1836 the architect John Notman created the first architecturally designed cemetery in the country. At the time it was one of Philadelphia's first great public landscapes. Dr. Waskie noted that Laurel Hill became extremely popular and was the choice of many families as a last resting place. As we

toured Andy pointed out many prominent burial sites occupied by people of note. Our main point of the visit was General Meade's grave site for him and a number of family members. It was a simple plot and location. I say this, and I believe our tour members would agree, the cemetery was greatly populated with graves and very interesting monuments that were quite elaborate.

Because of the time we did not get to see The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library. Perhaps at another time we can do this. We did visit Fairmount Park and saw the City of Philadelphia's memorial to the men and women of the Civil War.

I cannot conclude without a comment or two regarding Dr. Waskie. Believe me this review is but a surface of the comments and information presented to us by our tour guide. He knows Philadelphia and its Civil War connection. When I stated a novel might be required to totally define our trip I am not far from the truth. Andy had two other facts that were directed to us throughout our tour. In a lighthearted manner he continued to kid about being a "Republican" and he left no doubt that is where his views rest. His main point of interest and perhaps passion is his unyielding and total support of Major General George G. Meade as a great soldier and field commander. He views Meade among the best, if not the best, and he can support his position with detail and facts.

With these views he gave us a great tour, education and much to be appreciated of everything we experienced on this great day in Philadelphia. Our thanks to Andy Waskie and again a special thanks to Rich and Cathy Kennedy for the hard work of setting up the trip, the tour and for keeping us all "happy."

OCTOBER PROGRAM REVIEW

Our program for October was a presentation on Confederate Major General Lunsford Lindsay Lomax. Our speaker was Melissa Delcour a high school teacher of English during the school term and a Park Service employee on weekends and the summer season. Melissa works in the Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville battlefield areas as a field guide and does research work for the park service. Her field of interest is cavalry, more so the Confederate Cavalry and their commanders. Her talk on General Lomax introduced us to a man not greatly known in the war this however did not make him less a soldier or competent officer of troops. Like many others whose history did not elevate to star status he did his job, played out his service to the Confederate cause and served with distinction.

Lomax was born in Rhode Island in 1835 to a Virginia family. His father was an army captain of artillery and his mother also came from a military family. Lomax received an appointment-at-large to the United States Military Academy in 1852 and graduated in 1856 finishing 21 in a class of 49. At West Point Lomax met "Jeb" Stuart who was two years his senior at the Point graduating in 1854. He was a classmate and close friend of Fitzhugh Lee, nephew of Robert E. Lee, who graduated with Lomax finishing 45 in the class of 49. Lomax shared another close friendship at West Point with George Bayard who graduated with Lomax finishing 11th in the 1856 class. All four of these men would become general officers in the war. As we know Lomax, Stuart and Lee went with the Confederacy, Bayard remained in the Union, he was from New York.

Lomax served on the frontier fighting Indians before the Civil War. He shared this duty with Stuart, Lee and Bayard and the four men remained close. Melissa spoke of the type of warfare used to fight the Indians, not the great cavalry charges so often described,

but small unit fights generally dismounted. Lomax's three friends received severe wounds in the west but he was not hurt during his western assignments on the frontier. On April 25, 1861 Lomax resigned his army commission and was offered a captain's commission of Virginia's State Troops. This decision by Lomax came while he was on temporary duty in February 1861. His family had a great fear of the war and the effect on a military family with ties to the Federal Government. Lomax had a personal concern as to the effect it would have on his relationship with close friend George Bayard. Lomax wanted the friendship to remain strong despite the war. As was the case with similar friendships between other men this one probably would have stood the test of time and the war. Unfortunately Bayard was mortally wounded at Fredericksburg and died on December 14, 1862. The war came and Lomax again went west as a captain serving under Generals Ben McCulloch and Earl Van Doren in various capacities. He saw action at Wilson's Creek and the Battle of Pea Ridge. Returning to the east he became Colonel of the 11th Virginia Cavalry and led his regiment at Brandy Station and the fight at Fleetwood Hill. He then led them at Gettysburg in a fight on the Fairfield Road against the 6th U.S. Cavalry. On July 23, 1863 he was appointed Brigadier General with a command of a brigade under his old friend Fitzhugh Lee who was the division commander. Assembled at Culpeper Court House he went with Lee through the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and the battles in the Petersburg area. Promoted to Major General on August 10, 1864 he was requested by Jubal Early to join him in the Valley Campaign of 1864. He served with Early through the Valley until Fisher's Hill on September 22, 1864 when his dismounted forces were routed and he was captured. Lomax escaped and fought on until the fall of Richmond when he moved with his troops to Lynchburg, Virginia and then to Greensboro, North Carolina and surrendered with Joe Johnston.

After the war he became a farmer, Melissa pointed out this was not his desire and background. He wished to stay close to his family and help his mother. Lomax married Elizabeth Payne after the war and fathered two daughters. Selling a farm, Bellvue, that he owned he became president of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He later moved to Washington D.C. and aided in the compilation of the Official Records of the war he also became a commissioner of the Gettysburg National Park. In 1913 at age 78 Lunsford Lomax died. Melissa stated that General Lomax was not only a good soldier he was a good man. His record certainly supports her views. He stayed the course with the Confederacy it would however be easy to believe his heart looked both North and South.

Melissa Delcour presented her talk with charm and witicism and as she enjoys her work we enjoyed her program The Round Table thanks our guest for her visit and excellent talk.

DID YOU KNOW

For the Confederacy it could be called the beginning of the end, in truth the beginning of the death throes of the Confederacy. By the autumn of 1864, over 100,000 and probably about 200,000 Confederate soldiers were no longer present for duty; at the end of 1864 the muster rolls showed an aggregate absent of 400,787, and an aggregate present of 196,016 officers and men. Many had abandoned the cause, gone home to look after their families as Federal armies marched over and thru their land. What could the South hope to accomplish by continuing to fight. As early as the fall of Atlanta, Mrs. Mary Boykin Chestnut the Confederate diarist said it best, "no hope." Lincoln's reelection further spread across the South a widespread, and well founded conviction that to persist

in the war was futile. It was another measure of hopelessness that the Richmond Government could do little to bring deserters back to arms. Here and there throughout the Confederacy local courts refused to enforce measures to compel men to return to the army. In many parts of the Confederacy, the will of Richmond had simply become none existent. Although his conscience would not permit him to seek peace, President Davis had to recognize the desperate condition of the Confederacy. As long as Davis led on, similarly dutiful people followed him. At this point in time he took, for him, a desperate step. Davis called on the Confederate Congress for authority to "purchase slaves" to be used as cooks and teamsters for the army, in order to free more white men for combat. He also announced his willingness to go even further if Confederate independence demanded it. He stated: "until our white population shall prove insufficient for the armies we require and can afford to keep in the field, to employ as a soldier the Negro would scarcely be deemed wise or advantageous. But should subjugation be our alternative, there seems no reason to doubt what would be our decision." The Confederate Congress accepted the cooks and teamsters proposal, but was troubled by the Negro as a combat soldier. Major General Howell Cobb, commander of Georgia Militia and reserve forces, made this profound comment on Davis's views. "If slaves will make good soldiers our whole theory of slavery is wrong," implying the whole foundation of the Confederacy is wrong. However, Cobb added-"but they won't make soldiers." While the bill to enlist black soldiers was still under debate, Davis in support of it responded to Cobb's argument on the whole theory of slavery by saying; "if the Confederacy falls, there should be written on its tombstone, died of a theory." It did not occur to Davis that his earnest, unbending dedication to a Confederate nation was killing not institutions but people for the sake of his own theories. Theories which included a powerful president, Davis, within a Confederate nation.

Because of his stature in the South General Lee was called upon for his views on this subject. He stated: "I think therefore we must decide whether slavery shall be extinguished by our enemies and the slaves be used against us, or use them ourselves at the risk of the effects which may be produced upon our institutions." While his comments were much in support of Davis's views, it was his prestige, not Davis's that carried the enlistment measure through the Confederate Congress on March 13, 1865. Congress authorized President Davis to call on the owners of slaves for as many of their slaves between age 18 and 45 as he deemed expedient, "to perform military service in what ever capacity he may direct." The law did not force any slaveholder to yield their property, and no promise of freedom was given to an enlisted slave. In fact a number of slaves were enlisted but not one saw action with a Confederate force in battle. President Davis would not end the war, though he had the power to do so, his rectitude demanded that the fighting persist. Negro enlistment did little to help the Confederate manpower problem. A Confederate hope that black enlistment would lift the slavery albatross was to little and to late. Davis's vision of duty demanded that the fighting continue, on March 18, 1865 despite pleas from Davis to stand by the Confederacy, the Confederate Congress recognized the death throes of the Confederacy and adjourned its members who were then scattered forever.

We can again echo the words of Mary Chestnut "no hope" for the Confederate States of America, and its people. The great movie had it right "Gone With The Wind."

CIVIL WAR USAGE

LEGION---A military unit designation that was loosely used during the Civil War, but usually designated a comparatively large force including infantry, cavalry and artillery.

DANCE---A lighthearted synonym for "the beginning of a battle."

AFFAIR---An engagement of minor size and consequences, such as a small firefight.

TEA KETTLES---A contemptuous reference to Ironclad vessels.

WHITE GLOVE BOYS---A disdainful reference to the Union Army in the eastern theater coined by Federal soldiers in the western theater.

NOVEMBER QUIZ

Q.1 On February 3, 1865 Major General David McMurtrie Gregg resigned his commission and left the United States Army. At the time of his resignation he commanded the 2nd Division Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac. Can you name the officer who replaced General Gregg?

Q.2 Nathan Bedford Forrest is listed as the only Civil War soldier who launched his military career as a private and ended it as a General officer. This is both true and false. The fact is that Forrest almost had a rival for this honor. A Union soldier, not well known to most Civil War devotees, enlisted as a private on April 25, 1861 and was brevetted a Brigadier General on April 9, 1865. Can you identify this Union officer who in 1903 became the first Chief of Staff of the United States Army?

Q.3 This Confederate officer, born in Pennsylvania, saw no field service in the Civil War. However, he held one of the most important assignments in the Confederate service. Commissioned a Major, later a Brigadier General, he was Chief of the Ordnance Bureau with the task of arming the Confederate armies. Significant as was his role, his work was eclipsed by his son a physician involved in the construction of the Panama Canal. Can you name either or both of these men?

NOVEMBER MEETING

Our November meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday November 11, 2003**. Our meeting time is 6:30 PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. Please make your dinner reservation and meal selection by **Wednesday November 5, 2003**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533**. We again request all reservations be made by the cutoff date, thank you. Our dinner selections for November's meeting will be **Shepherd's Pie, Baked Ziti and Grilled Salmon**.

Just a reminder, \$1.00 bills will help at the entrance table, thank you.

Our speaker for November's meeting will be our own Tom Tate who will speak on the topic "the USS Monitor and the Problems With New Technology." This talk, our second program on Naval issues, plus September's "Did You Know" article on the Fleets of the Civil War should continue to improve our knowledge of Naval actions and issues in the Civil War. With Tom as our speaker the program should be a big hit, don't miss it, come early get a good seat. See you in November.

MEMBERS VIEW

In our October newsletter I mentioned the availability of space from time to time and the opportunity for a member to present his or her views on a subject of interest in the newsletter. I initiated the "Members View" opportunity with a "book recommendation." Following our October meeting I received a letter from fellow member Linda Zeiber who has requested I place her letter in the newsletter if space permits. Well we had space available in this month's newsletter and here is Linda's letter.

Travels with Rich

By Linda Zeiber

The following is an unsolicited, unpaid advertisement for field trips organized by Round Table member Richard Kennedy. I have had the pleasure of traveling to Gettysburg in June and Philadelphia in October of 2003 with other Round Table members and guest and have come away from both trips with new understandings and precious memories. If you have not participated in any of the trips, you are missing once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Traveling with Rich is a total experience. He leaves no detail uncovered in his planning. From the moment of departure until the moment of return, you will be entertained as well as inspired. Just the time on the bus is worth the price of admission. From the Happy Police through the opening monologue and, most recently, door prizes, I have thoroughly enjoyed these days. I probably could have led a complete life without viewing Old Baldy's head, and Rich really proved that he holds little influence in the weather department during the Gettysburg trip, but, after all, no one is perfect. Cathy Kennedy even baked for everyone on the bus since the Irish tavern in Philadelphia had planned on offering no dessert at lunch. (The pub did come through with dessert---all the better!)

One of the bonuses of traveling to areas rich in Civil War history is the engagement of top caliber guides. Barry Adams could not have planned a more inspirational nor more informative presentation in Gettysburg as we followed Berks Countians through the three-day battle. Temple professor, Dr. Andy Waskie, is a dynamo who guided us through Philadelphia which is rich in war history. Guides such as these are willing to share with our group because of the nature of the Round Table. They are top-notch. The experiences are unique and priceless.

Thank you, Rich and Cathy, for the countless hours that it takes to plan these forays. You make it look easy and effortless; as a former teacher who planned fieldtrips, I KNOW that is not the case. For those of you who have not participated, I urge you to try a trip. Travels with Rich are a blessing and outgrowth of your Round Table.

FINAL COMMENT

Thank you Linda for your letter. I, and I am sure those members who have taken advantage of our trips fully support you views and comments. Each trip is special, each one is different, each one is educational and most of all each one is enjoyable. We have a great time on the trips because we have a great group of people.

Take Linda's advise, try one you'll like it!

Tony Reilly---Newsletter Editor

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 2003

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

The First Defenders welcomed 66 members and guest to our November meeting. Ron Rhein conducted our business meeting opening with a review of our topic for our annual Round Table discussion in January. At our September meeting President Dave Valuska recommended the topic "Your Unsung Hero of the Battle of Gettysburg." Ron reviewed this suggestion and asked for any other recommendations from the membership. No other suggestions were put forth and the Round Table agreed on the topic presented by Dave Valuska. January's program is now set and we can do a little homework to prepare to participate in the annual discussion.

Pat Christ reported our membership for this year stood at 107 members. Pat made a request to the membership for assistance to a new member, Clair Sacks, who needs help in getting to and from our meetings. Clair lives in Kutztown, she is legally blind and can't drive. If any member can help our new member please call Pat and she will put you in contact with Miss Sacks.

Arlan Christ provided our treasurer's report. Present balance \$3,897.64, new income \$2, 215.00, new expenses \$1,317.71 providing a new balance of \$4, 794.93. \$992.00 of our balance is allocated to preservation.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Jack Gurney provided two rifles for our review. An 1860 Spencer Carbine Caliber 52, 7 shot. This weapon was carried by the 2nd. New York Cavalry. The other weapon an 1847 Springfield cut down and used by some Confederate Cavalry units. A pack of four cartridges for use with the Springfield was also provided.

Arlan Christ gave us a second view of the print "Ashes to Iron", the CSS Virginia's attack on the USS Cumberland at Hampton Roads, Virginia on March 8, 1862. Arlan tied this print in with Tom Tate's presentation given at the November meeting.

BOOK RAFFLE / PRESERVATION

Tom Tate announced we raised another \$177.00 for battlefield preservation when members dug deep and bought so many tickets. Thanks to one member who just donated \$5.00 without taking any tickets. The Round Table thanks its members for the great start we've had in the last three meetings on ticket purchases. Tom also extends thanks to those who continue to donate books for our raffle. Our book inventory remains high so we will be able to raffle a number of fine selections in December. Take a chance, buy a ticket, win a book it might make a fine Christmas gift to a Civil War buff on your Christmas list.

Tom attempted to contact Cedar Creek regarding a preservation issue, but received no response from them. He recommended we pass on this issue. There were no objections from the members on his recommendation.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM REVIEW

Our speaker for November's meeting was fellow Round Table member Tom Tate. This was Tom's second appearance as a meeting speaker. His topic was "The USS Monitor and the Problems with New Technology." Tom opened with the comment that new technology in military science often does not live up to expectations. He also noted that this new technology is generally created and built in answer to a pending or existing crisis. The USS Monitor was a technology created to meet the crisis created by the Confederate Ironclad Ram CSS Virginia.

After a few light-hearted comments on growing up in Altoona, Pennsylvania Tom introduced us to his interesting props that he used throughout his presentation small scale models he built of the Monitor and the Merrimac.

Tom's presentation on new technology had its beginning as he reviewed the Federals being forced, in April 1861, to abandon the Gosport Naval Yard in Norfolk, Virginia. The screw steamer Merrimack, here spelled with a "k" the official US Navy listing, had to be burned and scuttled to prevent its use by the Confederate forces. However, the charred hulk was salvageable and raised from the Elizabeth River. This put her on the way to become an ironclad warship. Tom did not speak of the Merrimack's conversion to an ironclad as a technological change it was more an adaptation of materials at hand and a tribute to her builders skill at improvisation. An example of this improvisation was the method the Confederates used to obtain the much needed steel for the building process. They tore up captured railway track and used the rails for the steel.

The Confederacy authorized \$172,523 to convert the Merrimack to the CSS Virginia a Lieutenant John M. Brooke prepared the drawings and calculations to transform the steamer to an ironclad. Work started in mid-July, 1861 and on February 17, 1862 the Virginia was christened and turned over to the Confederate Navy. As Tom pointed out with his models the Virginia was a larger vessel than the Monitor. It was 263 feet bow to stern the casemated base on top of the Virginia's hull was 178 feet with an angle of 36 degrees. While a larger vessel with heavier armament she was slower in speed, had a deeper draft of 22 feet twice that of the Monitor and was difficult in steering. The deep draft also made turning a problem. If the CSS Virginia was not a part of the coming naval technology she was a very formidable warship.

The USS Monitor represented a completely new concept in naval design. This design came from the mind of John Ericsson of Sweden. Ericsson designed the U S Navy's first steam frigate, the USS Princeton, it was the world's first propeller-driven warship. Tom pointed out that Ericsson was not an easy man to get along with. Ericsson also had his problems with the U S Navy when in 1844 he was wrongly blamed for designing a 12 inch cannon that exploded during trials killing President Tyler's Secretary of State and Secretary of the Navy plus other dignitaries. He was cleared of this charge but it caused hard feelings by him toward the navy. Despite this Ericsson came to the aid of the navy when Assistant Secretary of the Navy Gustavus Fox convinced him to design the Monitor. He submitted a design called "a floating battery" but it was rejected because of its radical design and was referred to as "a cheese box on a raft." With the threat of the Virginia known in Washington the Federal Government reversed itself and "Ericsson's folly", the steam powered, propeller-driven contraption was built as the world's first modern warship. The government authorized \$275,000 to build the ship and Ericsson stated he could do it in 100 days. Her keel was laid October 25, 1861 she was launched

on January 30, 1862 and commissioned February 25, 1862. The Monitor was built at the New York Ship Yards in the 100 days and like the Virginia was soon pressed into service. The Monitor was 172 feet bow to stern upper hull with a width of 40 feet. The lower hull was 122 feet with a width of 34 feet. The vessel displaced 1,200 tons, the turret measured 20 feet in diameter and was nine feet high and weighted 120 tons. A small pilot house 3 feet 10 inches high with a small viewing slit was located on the upper hull. The Monitor was faster than the Virginia, had a 10½ foot draft, efficient engines and was able to steam circles around the Virginia. Like the Virginia she was also a formidable warship.

Tom identified the armaments carried by each vessel. The Monitor had two 11 inch Dahlgrens located in the revolving turret. The Virginia six 9 inch Dahlgrens, four rifled guns of 6 and 7 inch caliber. Four guns each side, one front and back. The Dahlgren boat guns were the finest in the world.

The CSS Virginia had a compliment of 30 officers and 300 men, the USS Monitor 13 officers and 45 men. The Monitor crew was all volunteers, the Virginia crew was difficult to obtain, officers were plentiful but the Confederate Navy had to go to the army for crew members. Commodore Franklin Buchanan commanded the Virginia, Captain John L. Worden the Monitor.

Tom reviewed the great battle between the two warships, the early success of the Virginia and the stalemate with the Monitor. Since the Monitor prevented the Virginia from probably destroying many Federal vessels and killing many of their naval personnel we could believe the Monitor represented new naval technologies first victory. While the naval fight was probably a draw, technology was a winner. A new age of naval warfare was ushered into. The Monitor class of warship became a standard type of warship. In the battle neither side could claim a clear victory, however, both sides acknowledged that history had been made as the two ships helped to revolutionize naval warfare.

Neither of these ships survived the war in fact they did not survive the year. The Virginia was destroyed on March 9, 1862 to prevent its capture. The Monitor sank off Cape Hatteras on December 31, 1862 during a storm. An unfortunate ending for "the Monitor and the Merrimac."

The Round Table extends our thanks to Mr. Tom Tate for this fine presentation and for providing us with his interesting props.

DID YOU KNOW

The Civil War, that war of over one hundred forty years ago, produced the nation's first mass armies and a brutality and mechanized slaughter that shocked the nation. It had aircraft-balloons that floated over enemy lines, submarines, ironclad warships, automatic weapons, trenches, military drafts and the first organized espionage that the country ever knew. On both sides the spying involved treachery, theft of official secrets and the skillful seduction of loyalties. This war between Americans may well have seen more espionage, involving more people, than any in our history.

The war has been called the first of the modern conflicts, it was also the last of the romantic ones in its spying. Rules of knightly, or at least gentlemanly conduct were observed. Had this not been true scores of undercover agents would not have survived. It was a spy conscious war, and at times it seemed everybody was spying on everybody else. Talk of the war was free in newspapers, parlors, public bars and on street corners. Nevertheless, officials did little to stop the agents from acts of espionage. Agents made

their way across the lines and through opposition territory with great ease. With consistency they presented themselves to civilian and military officials and obtained information of value and then rode off with a bright good-by.

The nature of the war made espionage easy to carry out. Spies looked the same and spoke the same language. If you paid some attention to regional accents agents had little trouble gaining information. Southern and northern commands often were shocked to find the man or woman they spoke with or escorted over and through fortifications was a spy for the other side. American spies, somewhat new to the game, improvised, experimented and worked with energy and determination. A mixed crew they ranged from clerks, plantation owners, lawyers, actors and actresses to housewives.

The ladies were terrific as they made their American debut in espionage. With a double standard prevailing in spying to the ladies benefit, a woman caught would receive threats or perhaps a prison term, and then freedom to try again. On the other hand men operatives caught were hanged. After all a lady was a lady, a gentleman of the time would not order her shot or sent to the gallows.

Spying was a tale of two cities, Washington and Richmond, their close proximity made them obvious targets for both armies and rival spies. Other scenes of heavy spying were Louisville, New Orleans, Nashville, St Louis and Baltimore. However, espionage was not limited to those locations. At the beginning of the war neither side had security organizations or a secret service. Spying was a process of trial and error for both the Union and the Confederacy. In time organized intelligence units gradually emerged. In Richmond the War Department had an inconspicuous office known as the Signal Bureau, believed by most to be only "flag floppers", in truth an office that carried on unending correspondence with Confederate agents at key points in Union territory. When the North established "land blockades" to cut off communications the Confederate Signal Bureau established courier lines in all directions over land and sea to move information. In the early months of the war Southern agents had a field day, working almost without hindrance. The North stumbled on its way finally creating the first secret service bureau. Authority for this bureau began in the State Department, then went over to the War Office. As the course of the war brighten for the North, the Union system became more expert than the Confederacy's, and also more effective.

Early and late in the war spies for both sides had a superb asset in the almost unbelievable carelessness of officials and citizenry alike. Aid to spying lay in the newspaper situation in both North and South where freely printed vital information always seemed available. We are all aware of Robert E. Lee's great desire to have access to any available Northern newspaper.

The complete story of American espionage of 1861-1865 may never be known. Much of what took place has never been committed to paper people involved in espionage never gave out the facts. Many agents on both sides died obscure deaths and the respective governments opposed efforts to reveal names and activities. To many people might have been hurt. It could reasonably be said that spying in the Civil War may not have carried the headlines and greatness of the battlefields, but it certainly held its place as an important function and usefulness to both the North and the South.

CIVIL WAR USAGE

Camp Followers---Any nonmilitary personnel camping with or following an army on campaign. This category included newspaper correspondents, religious representatives, sutlers, artists and photographers, and prostitutes.

Fresh Fish---(1) New Recruits. (2) Newcomers to a prisoner-of-war camp. Long-time inmates often fell upon newcomers to relieve them of any valuables.

Powder Monkey---Young boys who conveyed gunpowder from a ship's cramped magazine to the gun crews. Their size was their main asset since the task required them to pass through small spaces in the ship.

Elephant---A designation for combat experience, regardless of its scale. To see or meet the elephant was to have been in combat for the first time. A baptism under fire the phrase is believed to have originated during the Mexican War.

In Detail---A movement of troops that involved sending one unit after another toward the enemy. To have a military force in place between two enemy forces so as to be able to defeat them in detail, or one at a time, successfully.

DECEMBER QUIZ

Q.1 Listed in this question are five General officers, three Confederate and two Union. Albert Sidney Johnston, Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, Micah Jenkins the Confederate officers, Jesse Lee Reno, Thomas Williams the Union officers. All five were graduates of a military academy all commanded at brigade level or higher, all were killed in action during the war. They all experienced another fact common to each man when killed in action. Identify the common fact?

Q2 When the Civil War erupted the United States Military Academy provided the vast majority of the general officers needed to lead the armies of the North and South. The first class to provide a general officer to the war was the class of 1805 the last class was 1862. Can you identify the most prolific West Point class, in terms of providing general officers to the Civil War.

Q.3 In the hue and cry over the assassination of President Lincoln this tragic occurrence received precious little media attention. The official death count for this disaster was 1,238. Other estimates range between 1,500 and 1,700 making it the worst maritime disaster in United States history. What was the disaster?

DECEMBER MEETING

Our December meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday December 9, 2003**. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. In keeping with past December meetings our program will feature songs popular during the Civil War. Our entertainment will again be provided by the 2nd South Carolina String Band. Members who have period costume are encouraged to wear them to enhance the evening festivities. But costume or not come and join the Round Table for this enjoyable evening.

Members planning to attend the meeting must make their reservations by the cutoff date **Wednesday December 3**. For reservations please call **610-683-1533** and speak clearly when leaving a message. Dinner selections for the December meeting include **Quakertown Roast; Baked Manicotti and Baked Haddock**. Prior to this meeting hors d'oeuvres will be available to the membership and guest starting at 5:45 PM. For our December meeting and program our dinner price will be \$21.00.

MEMBERS VIEW

Last month in our newsletter Linda Zeiber presented a letter to the newsletter that we posted for your information and hopefully enjoyment. The letter was titled "Travels With Rich." This month Linda has again taken the time to write the newsletter with an article relating to "The Seasons of Christmas." Linda writes of the Christmases during the Civil War her words are timely and can tell the story not only for the men of the Civil War but those of the past and the present who serve our country in far away places during the holiday season. Please take the time to read her story I am sure you will like it.

Linda's letter is an attachment to our Round Table newsletter.

FINAL COMMENT

Our December meeting is well before Christmas but I take this opportunity on behalf of the Board of Directors, your Round Table and myself as newsletter editor to extend to each of you and your families a very happy and blessed Christmas season and the very best in the coming New Year. See you at the December meeting.

Tony Reilly
Newsletter Editor

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Seasons of Christmas

By Linda Zeiber

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

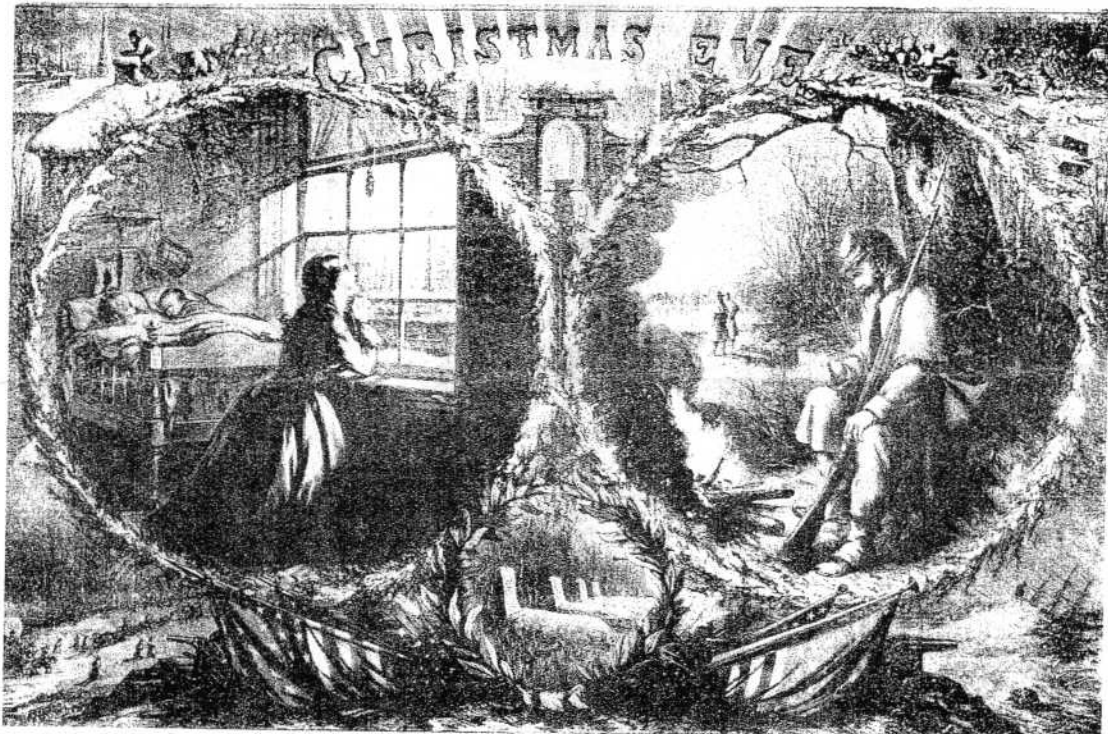
Our modern Christmas practices were already firmly entrenched during the days of the Civil War. Eleanor Custis Lee wrote in her journal in 1853 of the family's tabletop Christmas tree at West Point while her father was superintendent of that military academy. President Franklin Pierce set up the first Presidential Christmas tree in the White House in 1856. While tree ornaments would not be mass-produced for a decade after the Civil War, Americans had read the many Christmas descriptions of decorations and holiday festivities written in the widely popular works of Charles Dickens. By the middle of the Civil War, the postal service was offering free delivery to both manufactured and handmade Christmas cards during the holidays. The financial status of the Victorians determined the quality and quantity of gifts presented, but most all homes were decorated with greenery. Traditional holiday foods were found on dining tables, and children anticipated the presents left on and under the tree by Santa, whose unique Americanization was a gift from Clement Clark Moore in 1844. Of course, political cartoonist Thomas Nast drew Santa for publication in 1862, and the rest is history!

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

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

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

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



THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 2004

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

As was stated at the December meeting our January newsletter will be an abbreviated issue. We will pass on the usual features presented. A time factor in preparing a full newsletter and sending it to the University people for mailing during the holiday season necessitates the change. We will return in February with all features.

Our December meeting was attended by 58 members and guest. President Dave Valuska opened the meeting and called upon Rich Kennedy to provide the membership with a review of a Board of Directors meeting held on December 4, 2003. Rich's review of the board meeting and Dave's comments at the December meeting followed a similar line of information.

Tom Tate and Rich Kennedy will continue as co-chair on the program committee for the 2004-2005 campaign. They have indicated good progress on scheduling our slate of programs for that campaign. More to follow on this issue in future newsletters.

The Round Table will order a number of the new style shirts and have them available for review and purchase at the January meeting. If you wish to order a shirt contact Rich Kennedy as soon as possible. His telephone number is **610-779-6923** or e-mail him at

KENNYCKEL@AOL.COM. Those who have already ordered shirts can pick them up in January. The price remains at \$25.00.

The Board of Directors recommended a \$500.00 gift be presented to Civil War Preservation Trust to assist them in raising \$85,000.00 to purchase 211 acres of core battlefield land at Hatcher's Run in the Petersburg, Virginia area. A motion by a member to add \$250.00 to the \$500.00 was accepted by the members present. Our gift then will be \$750.00. This money will be matched dollar for dollar by the Federal Battlefield Protection Program this match enhances our gift to \$1,500.00. Good work Round Table.

A question of preservation support for western battlefields was reviewed. It was suggested all locations should be reviewed for support if the need is serious. Each case can be reviewed as it develops. Dave again indicated any member may suggest a preservation request and present supporting information with the request. The members can then vote on the request at a meeting.

Arlan Christ treasurer's report presented a present balance of \$4,794.93, new income \$1,321.00, new expenses \$1,111.09 providing a new balance of \$5,004.84. Our preservation fund balance will be updated in the February newsletter.

Pat Christ gave a final membership report of 110 members this includes eleven new members for this year. We will provide a list of new member names in February.

The greater portion of the business meeting dealt with our 2004 spring field trip. The dates under review are June 5 and 19 weekends. Three trips were reviewed and presented to the members present. A day trip to Antietam with no overnight stay, approximate cost \$75.00. A two day trip to 1st and 2nd Manassas (Bull Run), this would include an

ENWYCKE1

overnight stay, approximate cost \$150.00. Ron Rhein reviewed this trip and made it very appealing. The third option is a three day trip to Fredericksburg and Petersburg. First day and night at Fredericksburg and the area battlefields, then to Petersburg for two days and one night and visit any number of the areas battlefields plus a visit to Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier. Approximate cost \$225.00, this is an expanded trip to an area we are not all too familiar with. I have been to the museum and the surrounding grounds it is well worth the visit.

This statement and request is important. The Round Table ask all members to indicate your choice of June 5 or 19 weekend and your choice of a battlefield trip. If attending the January meeting when you make your dinner reservation please provide the requested trip information. If you are not able to attend in January please call and make your choices. The number to call is **610-683-4307** this is Ron Rhein's secretary at the University her name is Mrs. Chriss Ferris. Please help and cooperate in this matter.

JANUARY MEETING

Our January meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday January 13, 2004**. Meeting time is 6:30PM at The Inn at Moselem Springs. Please make your reservations by **Wednesday January 7, 2004**. Please note we have a new number to call for reservations **610-683-4307**, again this is Mr Rhein's secretary, Mrs. Chriss Ferris. Dinner selections for the January meeting include **Country Ham Steak, Baked Ziti and Grilled Salmon**. When making a reservation if you leave a message please speak clearly. Our dinner price for the meeting is \$16.00.

Our January program will be our annual Round Table discussion. Our topic "Your Unsung Hero of the Battle of Gettysburg." The Round Table looks favorably on this type program for it opens the door to all members to participate. In the past we have had good topics and many good comments. We again look forward to a very good discussion and hope for heavy member participation. For this topic there is no right or wrong your views are as valuable as those of any member. Do your homework, come prepared to give your views and opinions. We can all learn from the comments of any member and your comments are of value. Let's continue to make this annual program one of the year's most enjoyable events. We will see you all in January, and bring your "unsung hero" with you.

Whether you receive this newsletter before or after the holidays the Round Table hopes everybody had a great holiday season.

Tony Reilly
Newsletter Editor

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 2004

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

The Round Table welcomed a new year and 57 members and guest to our January meeting. President Dave Valuska opened our business meeting with a discussion on our summer field trip. Dave reviewed the results of our call in and followed with a question to the membership on their choice of a tour location and date for our trip. A visit to 1st and 2nd Manassas (Bull Run) received the most votes and June 5 was the date selected for the tour. Rich Kennedy will be our tour leader, information on cost, timing, hotel location and other tour factors will be presented at a future meeting. Stay tuned this will be a fine tour.

Rich also advised the membership we purchased two dozen new shirts and placed them on sale. Twelve shirts had been ordered prior to the meeting and eight were sold on the night of the meeting. The remaining four are 1 medium, 3 large and 1 extra large. If interested in a purchase please contact Rich as soon as possible. Price of the shirts are \$25.00.

Arlan Christ treasurer's report gave a present balance of \$5,004.84, new income \$1,387.00, new expenses \$3,085.53 providing a new balance of \$3,306.31. Our new expense charges include our \$750.00 preservation award to the Civil War Preservation Trust for Hatcher's Run.

Pat Christ provided the newsletter with a list of new members. We here present their names and welcome all to our Round Table. A.J. Archambault, Allyn Bengtson, Erma Davis, Vicki Ferguson, Fred Heatwole, Tom Kidd, A. Brian Moyer, Maryann Rohrbach, Claire Sacks, Bonnie Yates and William Yoder. With renewals and the noted eleven new members our membership closes for the year with 110 members.

Dave Valuska opened the meeting to comments from the floor, Bob Davis requested the members give a personal donation of \$1.00 to purchase phone cards for our service people serving overseas. Mr. Davis advised me he received \$45.00 following his request. His thanks is extended to the contributors.

Member Jim Reilly asked if information is available to identify western battlefields in need of preservation assistance. This question follows our Round Table discussions on preservation support for western battlefields. This information is presented to help answer the question. Last February Civil War Preservation Trust's ten most endangered battlefields include the following western sites. Champion Hill, Mississippi, Glorieta Pass, New Mexico, Mansfield, Louisiana, Nashville, Tennessee, Richmond, Kentucky and Rocky Face, Georgia. CWPT will probably provide a list for 2004 in the near future. This is just a list not a recommendation. Again any member can make a preservation request with some supporting information on any site. The membership can then discuss and vote on the request.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Paul Foust presented a number of dental items used during the war such as tooth keys, elevators, forceps, root puller, scalers, files, scalpel and a mouth piece to hold a patient's mouth open while working on the individual's teeth. Paul stated that a hospital steward did the dental work if no dentist was available. These items did not suggest dental work during the war was greatly looked forward to, well things have not changed much since the war regarding dental work.

Jack Gurney provided an original chromolithograph of "The Siege of Atlanta" by Thure DeThulstrup a military artist and member of "Who's Who in American Art."

BOOK RAFFLE/PRESERVATION

Tom Tate reported the membership raised another \$141.00 for our preservation fund at the January meeting. Our funds previous balance was \$543.00 following our \$750.00 gift to Hatcher's Run Battlefield. Our new fund balance following the January meeting is \$684.00. Tom noted at the meeting our preservation contributions since we organized has been \$7,640.00 this does not include matching funds which may well put the Round Table at approximately \$10,000.00. We have done well and we hope to continue with strong preservation support in the future. The Round Table should be pleased with our efforts in preservation.

Tom again thanks the members who made contributions to the raffle without taking raffle tickets he also thanks those who donated books for the raffle. We will have some videos to raffle along with books at coming meetings.

A discussion from the floor concerning contributions of preservation funds to Civil War Preservation Trust took place. A member pointed out the Trust has a large percent of administrative cost. Tom advises this is probably true, however it is worthwhile there is a national organization such as the Trust that can work at high levels with an experienced staff to react quickly to issues and events regarding preservation. Contacts with key individuals and legislators, at the national and state levels, is important to battlefield preservation. While we have made donations to CWPT we also give to other more local preservation organizations such as Central Virginia Battlefield Association, Richmond Battlefield Association, Kernstown Battlefield Association and to Cedar Creek to name a few. The overhead to these groups is next to nothing. Even for these organizations CWPT works to help them arrange for matching funds, publishes information for its members that can serve as a clearing-house for nationwide preservation efforts and needs.

Tom believes the Round Table needs to consider these various aspects of the different preservation organizations in order for our Round Table to best select to whom we donate our precious preservation money. I believe our membership supports this view by Mr. Tate.

At this point I would like to add an item to Tom's report. At our October meeting Paul Foust suggested we may want to consider a donation to the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation. In reviewing this need Tom was unable to get a response to his inquiries from Cedar Creek and the issue remained unclear. I came across this information and it may shed some light on their situation. The Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation recently rejected an offer by the National Park Service to pay off the \$338,000.00 debt owed on a 135 acre tract that was purchased in the year 2000. Cedar Creek thanked the Park Service but stated they believe they could continue to meet their payments. Acceptance of the Federal money would mean that ownership of the tract of land would transfer to the

National Park Service. Cedar Creek stated they did not have an emergency at this time regarding the tract of land in question and the Park Service could use the payoff funds for other needs they may have. The land in question is south of the Belle Grove manor house and contains more than a half of mile of earthworks from the battle. If information on this issue suggests Cedar Creek needs help in the future the Round Table can reconsider the situation and review the issue.

JANUARY PROGRAM REVIEW

January's program was our annual Round Table discussion. Our topic was "Your Unsung Hero of the Battle of Gettysburg." We hoped for good membership participation and we were all well rewarded as we had a number of members put forth their choice of an unsung hero. It is probable we would have had more names presented but time was a factor. Each member who had the opportunity to present a name also gave very good background information regarding their choice. I will list the choices presented to give all an idea of whom the Round Table labeled as an unsung hero. Brigadier General David M. Gregg who commanded the 2nd Division, Cavalry Corps action at East Cavalry field on July 3 against General Stuart's Cavalry Division. Colonel Strong Vincent commander 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, 5th Federal Corps action on Little Round Top on July 2 against General Hood's Division. The Union Soldier, probably the battle's greatest unsung heroes at Gettysburg. Army Sergeants for both Union and Confederate armies. Brigadier General George S. Greene commander 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 12th Federal Corps action on Culp's Hill night of July 2 and morning of July 3 against troops of Major General Edward Johnson's Division. General Greene received high praise during the discussion and his work may have placed him at the top of our unsung hero list. Colonel David Ireland commander 137th New York Regiment assigned to General Greene's Brigade held the right of Greene's Brigade line on Culp's Hill against troops of Brigadier General George "Maryland" Steuart's Brigade. Brigadier General Henry J. Hunt for his command of federal artillery during the battle. Lieutenant Colonel Freeman McGilvery, Artillery Reserve Brigade commander action in the area of the Trostle Farm House on July 2. Two enlisted soldiers received notice at our meeting Sergeant William Hussey and Private A.J. Harshborger for action on the night of July 2 on Culp's Hill. These two men were members of the 7th Indiana Regiment.

To explain in detail the actions taken during the battle of the names presented during our program and the names of many more on both sides of the battle would have taken more than the time we had during our meeting and more space than the newsletter has available. The key to our program had to be the participation and interest shown and presented by the members present. The exchange of ideas and information that our program generated defines one of the real purposes of a Civil War Round Table. Each year this program brings increased participation by the membership and adds to the Round Table's reputation as a fine organization. Your Board of Directors looks with favor upon this type of program and the board hopes the membership agrees. Thanks for making our January program a great success.

DID YOU KNOW

At the conclusion of our program at our January meeting Barry Adams presented the names of seven women as people who should be considered as an "Unsung Hero of the Battle of Gettysburg." Because of the time he could not elaborate on their contributions. He suggested we try to find out something about them if we could. I will try to help

contribute to this request. The ladies mentioned by Barry and many others like them made contributions to the war not only at Gettysburg but also on many other battlefields.

The names Barry provided were Camilla O'Keefe, Annie McShane, Mary Ann Streckel, Henrietta Casey, Susanna Webb, Catherine Reddy and Jane Stokes. As Barry stated to me these women and others, 28 from Emmitsburg and 12 from Baltimore, were Sisters of Charity who came to Gettysburg to provide help and comfort to both Union and Confederate soldiers who were casualties of the battle.

I do not know the individual contributions of the women noted, Barry may know that information, but we will provide some information on the "Nuns of the Battlefield" in this edition of "Did You Know." This was not my first topic for this month's "Did You Know" but Barry's suggestion to all of us to think about the ladies named put me to the task of getting some information about them.

In 1921 in Washington D.C. a monument was erected to the "Nuns of the Battlefield" that commemorates the approximately 600 Roman Catholic sisters from twenty-one separate communities of twelve different orders who nursed both Union and Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. These Sisters, or "Sister Nurses" as they were often called, had a tradition of nursing care, often from their European origins, and a history in the United States of establishing hospitals and reaching out in times of epidemics and other crisis. The Civil War was certainly a national crisis. Unlike their female counterparts organized by Dorothea Dix or other hospital matrons, the Sisters had written regulations for their community life that served as a training manual on how patients should be treated. Their structured life and dedication enabled them to be easily and quickly organized for dealing with the casualty demands of the war. Details of their service in providing nursing care, and spiritual assistance to those who desired it, has been largely unpublished. Their care and work could be found north and south, and east and west during the war, from hospitals, battlefields and their own convents.

Though statistics are difficult to reconstruct, the sisters who nursed during the war probably represented about one-third of all the nuns in the United States at the outbreak of the war. Union and Confederate authorities turned to hospitals and religious communities of all faiths to assist with wounded soldiers. Nursing during the war was not a profession as we know it to be today, Many nursing tasks during the war were performed by convalescing soldiers. The ability of Sisters to do so much more than a convalescing soldier was likely to be viewed as a gift from God to wounded men. The Sisters quietness, good order, cooperation with doctors and their ability to handle the domestic but vital chores of cleaning, cooking, dedication and willingness to learn and take on extra duties were all qualities desired and praised by the doctors.

Sister Nurses were often able to obtain supplies that doctors and military authorities were not able to procure. Access to many such items were available through their religious orders, family and friends. There were a number of factors that made Sister Nurses desirable to doctors and the field of medicine in the Civil War. Their lifestyle enabled them to live simply, to be quickly trained and organized and to work under male or female supervision. They were a like-minded group of women experienced in various social services. In addition, because they were unmarried with a vow of celibacy, the Sisters were less suspect in their motivations for desiring to serve and work with men.

Nursing in the Civil War was a pivotal point in the recognition of the value and scope performed by female nurses and the ultimate need to develop nursing service as a

profession for women. Sister Nurses played a significant role along with other women in recognizing and creating this need. Sister Nurses, Sisters of Charity and Mercy they gave help on the battlefields and an impetus to the rise of professional schools of nursing, some started by their religious communities.

The young ladies, Sister Nurses, who Barry identified in his comments were a few of the many who were deserving of the following quote, "Gave to the world one of the greatest exemplifications of Christian heroism ever displayed on the continent." Truly we can say, not only at Gettysburg and on so many other battlefields, for one and all of them "unsung heroes."

CIVIL WAR USAGE

EPAULETTE---(1) A shoulder ornament, especially a fringed strap. (2) A leather device to protect the shoulder on which a musket was borne.

SCUTTLEBUTT---Gossip or idle talk. To sailors this referred to the butt or cask of fresh water around which men lingered and talked.

SUTLER---A civilian licensed or permitted to operate a shop at a military camp or post. Sutlers often offered foodstuffs that were not included in the official rations and other small items such as buttons and thread that were in demand. Generally, they operated on a cash basis, but some extended credit at high interest rates. Many issued their own currency, called scrip or chits, which they would exchange for dollars or goods at a later time.

VERTICAL FIRE---Fire delivered at a high angle, such as by mortars.

TO FRONT---To form a line of battle with a body of soldiers.

FEBRUARY QUIZ

Q.1 This Southern capital was the first Confederate state capital to fall to Union forces during the war. In this multipoint question can you (a) name the southern capital, (b) the date of its surrender, (c) the officer who commanded the Federal Army that captured and accepted the surrender of the city?

Q.2 "I can't spare this man, he fights." Probably one of President Lincoln's more well know statements. Can you identify the approximate time frame the President made this statement and the reason why?

Q.3 Prior to the Battle of Shiloh General Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee was not organized in Corps but his command consisted of six divisions. Can you identify the six division commanders and also a fact that was identical to each of these general officers prior to the Civil War?

FEBRUARY MEETING

Our February meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday February 10, 2004**. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at the Moselem Springs Inn. We request members planning to attend the meeting to make their reservations by the cutoff date of **Wednesday February 4**. The number to call for reservations is **610-683-4307** if you leave a message please speak clearly. Dinner selections for the February meeting include **Shepard's Pie, Baked Manicotti and Baked Haddock**. Our dinner price is \$16.00.

Our February program will be a presentation on the Battle of Shiloh and will include issues and events that led to the battle. Our speakers will be our two western specialist and fellow members Dr. Ron Rhein and Dr. Michael Gabriel. Their previous talks on Champion Hill and the Forts Henry and Donaldson were top of the line presentations.

Make plans to attend we are all in for a treat, these two guys are "good." Look to see a great turnout at the February meeting see you all at the meeting.

MEMBERS VIEW

Fellow member Russ Angstadt provided the newsletter with this item regarding the uncovering of a Confederate Army Fort that was crucial to the defense of Mobile, Alabama.

Fort Sidney Johnston, a Confederate Army Fort that served as Mobile's strongest defense, was discovered by archaeologists in advance of a rail yard construction project. The fort, which was built in 1864 and named after Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston, was designed to defend Mobile from attack launched from Mobile Bay. City archivist Edward Harkins stated there are very few such Confederate forts still in existence. The site uncovered had been an amusement park from the late 19th to the mid-20th century prior to it being plowed over.

The fort's location was known from historic maps. In 1862 the Confederates had started to establish a fortified line further from Mobile that consisted of trenches and rifle pits. A second line was established outside the city in 1863. Then in 1864, the Confederates decided that the second line was too close, because artillery would still be able to reach the city, so a third line was started between the two, consisting of field forts connected by trench lines.

"Fort Sidney Johnston was the lynchpin of the third line," Harkins stated. Due to its importance to the city's defense, the fort is more complex than the typical fortifications built on the battlefield during the war. The 13-cannon fort was built mostly of sand and logs with some brick. A large brick wall that may have been part of an underground artillery ammunition magazine or shelter was uncovered, as well as a massive wooden floor made of three-by-eight-inch timber. The woods preservation was aided by the slow burial of the structure under 12 feet of moist soil. The fort was uncovered by the archaeologists, the remnants that is, by using a trackhoe to dig a trench approximately 12 feet deep.

The Newsletter thanks Russ Angstadt for referring this item and for allowing us to pass the information onto the membership.

As we have noted before if a member has an item of interest let us know and if space permits we will try to publish it in the newsletter.

Tony Reilly
Newsletter Editor

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

MARCH 2004

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Our February meeting was attended by 67 members a fine turnout for a February meeting and the confusion our newsletter problem presented to the membership.

Rich Kennedy opened our meeting and made comments regarding our unexpected problem in mailing the February newsletter. Fortunately with the help and cooperation of everyone, including members, we got it out and our meeting went on with great success.

Rich reviewed the comments made by members at our January meeting regarding our program on "Unsung Heroes of Gettysburg" paying high marks to the fine membership participation at the meeting.

A first report on our June 5 field trip to the "Bull Run" battlefields identified reservation of a Bieber bus and a probable trip cost of \$140.00 or \$150.00. Remember this is a two day trip with an overnight stay. Stay tuned more to come.

Cathie Kennedy noted get well cards were sent to John Border and Mary Lou Rhein for the Round Table wishing speedy recoveries to both members.

Bob Davies purchased 24 phone cards with \$50.00 he collected from members at the January meeting. The cards will be distributed to servicemen and women.

Arlan Christ presented the treasurer's report. Present balance \$3,306.31, new income \$1,501.00, new expenses \$932.06 providing a new balance of \$3,875.25. Our balance includes \$684.00 in preservation funds.

The Round Table again extends its appreciation for your cooperation and understanding regarding our February Newsletter. Hopefully it will not happen again, thank you all.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Member Vickie Ferguson presented a number of women's items from the Civil War era. Hand warmers or "muffs" one made from monkey hair. Men's and ladies watches, period jewelry and a hair wreath made from human hair generally taken from a deceased family member as a family memorial. Hair jewelry made from human hair was popular during the period. A fine parasol, bonnet pins and a man's stick pin were also a part of the collections. Our thanks to Vicki for this interesting collection of Civil War period items.

BOOK RAFFLE/ PRESERVATION

Tom Tate advised we raised another \$133.00 for battlefield preservation at our February meeting. Thanks to ticket purchases and donations made we raised our preservation fund to \$817.00. Two books were donated by the members, "A Commitment to Valor" about Robert E. Lee and "Swamp Doctor" about a Union surgeon. Look for them at our March meeting.

Tom Tate requested the following tribute to Jack Gurney be placed in the newsletter as an appreciation for all the efforts Jack has made in the past in bringing to us so many interesting items.

It is right and proper that our Round Table raise money for battlefield preservation and donate it to the various groups who labor to preserve and protect these national shrines. Over the years I have been too much concerned with the "Big Picture" to fully appreciate the vital preservation work quietly carried on by our own friend and member Jack Gurney. He has saved from abandonment and neglect many vital relics from the war we study and try to preserve. His generosity in sharing them with us has given us all a unique experience unmatched by any museum. It certainly was not convenient for him to bring some of his large and unwieldy artifact to our meeting month after month but he did so for our benefit.

Recently Jack had an opportunity to "download" his magnificent collection. I am sure all of us will miss his regular part of the program in telling us the background of or purpose for the interesting objects he brought for us to see. In Jack passing on his collection to another he insured its well-being because it passed on to someone who truly knows and appreciates its value. Most private collectors share their collections with others so another community will in all probability have an opportunity to learn from these inanimate relics. Jack passing on his collection is a lesson to us all. No one person or one generation can "own" our past and heritage: we are merely the stewards of it. As we donate to preserve the battlefields of our Civil War we are making a contribution to future generations that is perhaps more important to them than to ourselves. In this way we can partake of the same generous spirit that enabled Jack to share his treasures with us. Thanks Jack for showing us the way.

Tom Tate's letter to the Round Table regarding Jack Gurney, Mr. Preservationist.

MARCH PROGRAM REVIEW

Our February program and speakers were introduced by Barry Adams. "Shiloh the Western Campaign" was presented by our own fellow members and western specialist Ron Rhein and Mike Gabriel. Our speakers began with a review of the events that led to Shiloh. In the winter of 1862 Federal army and navy forces led an offensive under the commands of General U.S. Grant and Flag Officer Andrew Foote. This offensive penetrated Confederate defenses in southern Kentucky and led to the capture of Fort Henry and Fort Donaldson, these forts protected the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers vital waterways that led to the heart of the State of Tennessee. The fall of the two forts began a series of Federal victories that left the Confederacy in disarray with a heavy loss in manpower, their armies split and scattered. Struggling to stave off disaster the Confederate forces in the area retreated from the Kentucky-Tennessee border toward Mississippi and Alabama with three Federal armies, Ohio, Mississippi and Tennessee, following. The Federal armies objective was Corinth, Mississippi and anything else that got in their road. The Army of the Ohio, under command of Brigadier General Don Carlos Buell found the capital of Tennessee, the city of Nashville, in their way and occupied the city on February 26, 1862. Nashville was the first Confederate capital to fall to Union forces.

Although successful Ron and Mike pointed out General Grant's problems with General Halleck who had a petulant displeasure with Grant. Halleck replaced Grant with Major General C.F. Smith a very fine soldier and officer. The replacement was temporary

since Smith was injured as the army moved south and Grant returned to his old command. Grant and Smith had great respect for each other, unfortunately Smith's injury led to his death on April 25, 1862.

As the Union Army advances south past Savannah, Tennessee Grant directs forces under General Sherman to Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River only twenty miles northeast of Corinth. As the Union forces under Grant consolidate in this area establishing encampments the Battle of Shiloh draws near. Using a fine map our speakers identified the positions taken by Grant's divisions on the coming field of battle. They point out his deployments are not good, with mostly green troops in the front of their lines and veteran troops behind them. General Buell ordered by General Halleck to join Grant for the offensive against Corinth was still in route and slowed by rains that flooded rivers on his route.

Hoping to gather enough strength to stop the Union advance before Buell's arrival the Confederates gather in force around Corinth. Troops from many areas join General Albert Sidney Johnston's Army of Mississippi. Unfortunately many of these troops are also green and untested. On April 3, 1862 the Confederates with 44,000 troops began marching out of Corinth toward Pittsburg Landing intending to surprise Grant's 42,000 men with an attack before Buell arrives with his 25,000 men. Johnston's one day advance turns to three days as rain, complex marching plans, terrain problems, swamps, confusing roads and inexperienced soldiers hinder the movement. An attempt by General Johnston to use black slaves to help the army in its move fails due to planters refusing Johnston their use. With the marching delays and the noise made by the green Southern troops General Beauregard, second in command, and General Bragg believe the attack must fail and they recommend it be cancelled, The Federals had to have been alerted. General Johnston refuses to turn back. The attack is ordered for early Sunday morning April 6, 1862. Striking at dawn the Confederate Army achieved a complete strategic surprise despite poor alignments of their attacking corps.

Ron and Mike pointed out the early fighting takes place between skirmishers and Federal patrols. With the Union forces not ready a Confederate triumph seemed highly probable. Federal forces lacking tactical formation, and with inexperienced troops are pressed hard and fall back. Following their early success the Confederates face some problems. There is confusion in the high command whether to drive the Federals back to Pittsburg Landing or away from it, their corps continued to advance one in front of the other rather than side by side. With units intermingled the advance slows down and their advantage with it. Two factors further effect the Confederate success, the wounding and ultimate death of General Johnston and most of all the Federal defense at the "Hornets Nest" as it was called by Southern troops. Time and again the Confederates storm this Union strong point and rallying point, some twelve attacks in all, until success comes near 6:00PM in the afternoon. The fight for the "nest" takes too much time and the cost is great. Further it draws attention away from an opportunity earlier in the day to break through the weak Federal left near the river. Given time Grant creates a new defense line at Pittsburg Landing. General Beauregard now in command continues to attack until dark but chooses not to attack the Federal line covering the landing. This decision is second-guessed by many, however Beauregard's decision is based on an erroneous report that General Buell would not arrive on time to prevent the destruction of Grant's army. However, like many Confederates, he apparently thought the Yankees were whipped.

On April 7 with additional forces Grant strikes and drives the Confederates back. The battle seesawed back and forth with hard fighting. When expected Confederate reinforcements fail to arrive Beauregard orders a withdrawal and his army starts an unmolested retreat to Corinth. The Federals are content to reoccupy their previous camps and do not pursue the Confederates. Battle casualties for both sides approached 24,000 clearly making Shiloh the bloodiest battle of the war to date.

In their presentation our speakers addressed the contributions of individual personnel and units. They pointed out some legacies of this great fight. In addition to the greatest battle and the casualties noted which represented 21% Federal forces engaged and 27% Confederate forces engaged the nation as a whole was shocked by these figures. There was political and military repercussions, criticism of officers in command and the creation of new military heroes. General Grant probably more so than at Forts Henry and Donaldson had a true emergence. President Lincoln had it right above all other comments regarding General Grant when he said "I can't spare this man he fights."

As they have done in their two previous presentations Ron and Mike gave the Round Table another outstanding presentation and program. Our thanks to both of these gentlemen and let's hope we hear more from the west in the not to distant future.

DID YOU KNOW

Casualties in the Civil War were paid by a devastating price in blood. If you read any number of books or articles on the war you probably would get different casualty figures from each item or book read. The casualty numbers may be close, but seldom the same. The leading authority on casualties of the war, Thomas L. Livermore, admits to the handicap of poor records kept. Livermore provided detailed studies of Union and Confederate military casualties and published "Numbers and Losses in the Civil War in America 1861-1865" in 1901.

The approximately 10,455 military engagements, some devastating to human life and some nearly bloodless, plus naval clashes, accidents, suicides, sickness, murders and executions resulted in the total casualties of 1,094,453 during the Civil War. At least 618,000 Americans died in the Civil War, and some experts say the toll was as high as 700,000. The number most often quoted is 620,000. The Union armies had from 2,500,000 to 2,750,000 men. Their losses by best estimate: battle deaths 110,070, other causes especially disease 250,152 for a total of 360,222. The Confederate strength, known less accurately because of missing records, was from 750,000 to 1,250,000 men. Estimated Confederate losses: battle deaths 94,000, other 164,000 for a total of 258,000. The estimated wounded in battle is 275,175 Federal Army, 2,226 Federal Navy. Surviving Confederate records indicate 194,026 with no army-navy breakdown. Like the Federal breakdown the Confederate Army suffered the greater wounded number. Again poor Confederate records prevent an absolute casualty picture.

Livermore studied 48 of the war's battles and concluded: of every 1,000 Federals in battle, 112 were hit, of every 1,000 Confederates 150 were hit. Mortality from wounds was greater among Confederates, because of inferior medical service. We are all generally aware of the great blood baths of the war in both the eastern and western theater of operation. I do not feel the need to mention them here.

Here is a brief look at deaths of Union forces by state listing only the top five with deaths by all causes: (1) New York 46,534, (2) Ohio 35,475, (3) Illinois 34,834, (4) Pennsylvania 33,183, (5) Indiana 26,672. These same five states had the most killed in

action as follows: (1) New York 19,085, (2) Pennsylvania 15,265, (3) Ohio 11,558, (4) Illinois 9,894, (5) Indiana 7,243. The five Southern states with most deaths all causes: (1) North Carolina 40,275, (2) South Carolina 17,682, (3) Mississippi 15,265, (4) Virginia 14,794, (5) Georgia 10,974. These same five also had the highest killed in action as follows: (1) North Carolina 19,673, (2) South Carolina 12,922, (3) Mississippi 8,458, (4) Virginia 7,847, (5) Georgia 7,272. In terms of deaths by the population of the states, North Carolina paid the greatest price in manpower during the war.

One authority reported that some 3,530 Indians fought for the Union, 1,018 were killed, a very high percentage. Of 178,975 Negro Union troops, estimated deaths were 36,000.

The Civil War had another price in the cost of war, one in dollars and cents. The U.S. government estimated in January 1863 that the war was costing \$2.5 million daily. A final official estimate in 1879 totaled \$6,190,000,000. The Confederacy spent perhaps \$2,099,808,707. By 1906 another \$3.3 billion already had been spent by the U.S. government on Northerners' pensions and other veterans' benefits for former Federal soldiers. Southern states and private philanthropy provided benefits to the Confederate veterans.

Inflation affected both Northern and Southern assets but hit the Confederacy harder. Northern currency fluctuated in value, and at its lowest point \$2.59 in Federal paper money equaled \$1 in gold. The Confederate currency so declined in purchasing power that eventually \$60-\$70 equaled a gold dollar.

The physical devastation, almost all of it in the South, was enormous: homes, crops, farm animals, buildings, bridges, roads and other factors all left the South in ruins. But all Americans paid the price of the Civil War one way or another.

CIVIL WAR USAGE

AID-DE-CAMP---Often an ex officio position on a general officer's staff, consequently it was sometimes filled by civilians and foreign observers. Aide functions were so numerous and varied that the title appears countless times in documents of 1861-1865.

BALL---A general reference to ammunition, such as cannonballs and minie balls. Balls used by the regular army prior to the war were regarded as superior to the shot manufactured during the war.

TO GRANT QUARTER---To show mercy to defeated or surrendered men.

TO HUSBAND---Once meaning to save or to limit, this term was widely used during the Civil War.

SCOUT---(1) A reconnaissance, usually in force and carried out by cavalry. (2) An individual either military personnel or civilian sent to gather information; a euphemism for spy.

MARCH QUIZ

Q.1 Of all the general officers in the armies of the Confederacy, this Confederate Brigadier General enjoyed a rare distinction he was the first to have had a major confrontation with "Stonewall" Jackson. This capable officer was considered "as brave and gallant as he was positive." The confrontation took place prior to the Civil War. Can you identify this Confederate officer and the reason for the confrontation?

Q.2 In general histories of the war, the 54th Massachusetts Infantry is usually presented as being the first African-American Regiment in the Union Army. They in fact were not

the first. In this two part question can you (1) identify the first officially mustered black regiment to fight for the Union and (2) a significant fact in this regiment's command structure?

Q.3 This Federal officer was wounded ten weeks after graduation from West Point. He survived his wound and served throughout the Civil War reaching the rank of Brigadier General. Following the war he remained in the army until resigning in 1870. In September, 1893 he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his service at 1st Bull Run. He served as Brigadier General in the war with Spain and when he died he was the last surviving Union general of the Civil War. Identify this general officer?

MARCH MEETING

Our March meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday March 9, 2004**. Meeting time is 6:30PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. We request members planning to attend the meeting to make their reservations by the cutoff date of **Wednesday March 3**. For our March meeting the number to call for reservations is **610-683-4307** if you leave a message please speak clearly. Dinner selections for the March meeting include **Quakertown Roast, Grilled Salmon and Pot Pie**. Our dinner price is \$16.00.

Our March program will be a presentation on "Blacks in the Civil War Navy." Our speaker will be Byron Childress who comes to us from the Philadelphia area. Plan to attend we should have a fine meeting, see you in March.

MISCELLANEOUS

We have mentioned this item in a previous newsletter. Claire Sacks a new member was looking for assistance in getting to our meetings, she has limited eyesight and does not drive, if any member could assist her in getting to the meetings she would be grateful. Her telephone number is 610-683-5119.

Arlan Christ received a thank you letter from Civil War Preservation Trust for our \$750.00 gift that received matching funds. We can take great satisfaction in our Round Tables efforts to assist the CWPT in raising the \$88,000 needed to match the Battlefield Protection Program's grant to purchase 211-acre battlefield at Hatcher's Run. Attached to the newsletter is a copy of CWPT letter of thanks to us. This letter is a thank you to all members and a reminder of the good work our Round Table participates in.

Paul Foust advised the newsletter of a coming living history program that will be presented at the Fairgrounds Mall in Reading on March 13-14, 2004. The program is presented by the 88th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. The program will have displays, talks and I believe two surgical procedures that were part of Civil War history. The 88th will also do some recruiting so if you are interested pay a visit and get some information. This looks like a good program so if you have time stop by and enjoy.

Tony Reilly
Newsletter Editor



Civil War Preservation Trust

January 23, 2004

Paul W. Bryant, Jr.
Chairman

O. James Lighthizer
President

John L. Nau, III
Vice Chairman

E. Warner Bass
Edwin C. Bearss
Kirk J. Bradley
Lonnie G. Bunch, III
Childs F. Burden
Beverly M. DuBose, III
Lester G. Fant, III
Claude P. Foster
James S. Gilliland
John D. Haynes
Daniel M. Laney
Thomas V. Malloy
Jeffrey P. McClanathan
J. Alex McMillan, III
Anne Miller
Libby O'Connell
Robert G. O'Donnell
S. Waite Rawls, III
Theodore Sedgwick
J. Dennis Sexton
Henry E. Simpson
Guy Miller Struve
L. Dudley Walker
Rosemary T. Williams
Jay Winik

1331 H Street, NW
Suite 1001
Washington, DC 20005
Phone 202-367-1861
Fax 202-367-1865

11 Public Square
Suite 200
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Phone 301-665-1400
Fax 301-665-1416

www.civilwar.org
cwpt@civilwar.org

First Defenders CWRT
Mr. Arlan R. Christ
332 West Main Street
Kutztown, PA 19530

Dear Mr. Christ,

Your timeliness is incredible! Maybe it was the pictures Jim sent to you, showing you the deep trenches and earthworks at Hatcher's Run? Or maybe it was the fact that we had less than 90 days until our option contract expired? Whatever your reason may be-- and maybe it is all of the above-- I want to thank you for sending your generous donation of \$750 as quickly as you did to help CWPT preserve the 211-acre battlefield at Hatcher's Run!

By helping to raise the \$85,000 needed to match the grant from the Battlefield Protection Program, you will not only be preserving core Petersburg campaign hallowed ground; but you will be extending the line of the 118-acre parcel you and CWPT saved in 2001, creating an unbroken half-mile of preserved Confederate earthworks. Just imagine this treasure; no picture would do justice to this sacred ground!

Mr. Christ, I want to thank you for acting so quickly to preserve this parcel at Hatcher's Run. You have helped create an outdoor classroom for you and your family to enjoy. To lose this land after coming so close to saving it would be inconceivable, so I thank you for your timely support to our efforts to preserve America's national heritage. Please let me know if I may be of service to you. I cannot thank you enough.

With warmest regards, your obed't serv't,

David
David N. Duncan

Director of Membership and Development

(Pursuant to IRS Code requirements for substantiation of charitable contributions, the Civil War Preservation Trust provided no goods or services in return for this contribution.)

*Mr. Christ, my thanks
to you and all of your
members... because of
your generosity, we have
saved
this land!*

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

APRIL 2004

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Attendance at our March meeting was 60 members. President Dave Valuska opened our meeting with a request to Arlan Christ for a treasurer's report. Arlan reported a present balance of \$3,875.25, new income \$1,159.00, new expenses \$1,131.24 and a new balance of \$3,903.01. This balance includes \$817.00 in our preservation fund. Please keep in mind we already presented \$750.00 to preservation early this year.

Rich Kennedy provided an update on our coming June 5 field trip. Guides have been arranged for both 1st and 2nd Manassas tours. We will leave at 6AM for the four hour trip on Saturday morning and leave at 2:30PM on Sunday for our return trip. Hotel cost \$150.00 for double occupancy and probably \$190.00 for single occupancy. We will probably have more information on the trip by the time this newsletter goes to the printer. As always stay tuned.

Dave Valuska presented a reenactment report for the month of May. On April 31 and May 1-2 Kelly's Ford, on May 6-7-8 Spotsylvania and on May 13-14-15 New Market. All are in the state of Virginia. Dave also introduced his new book "Damn Dutch" which is now available for purchase.

New member certificates were presented at the meeting to those new members present and each received a Round Table welcome.

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Fellow member Paul Foust, a member of the 88th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Civil War Reenacting Unit, who serves as a Hospital Steward with the 88th brought to our history table a number of items a Hospital Steward would have used during the war. A medicine cabinet containing numerous drugs used during the war, a pill roller used to make pills, suppositories or as they were also called plugs, an apothecaries measure or balance used in pharmacy work. Paul also provided for our review the book on Army Medical Regulations and a book United States Dispensatory a manual describing medicinal preparations. This month's items follow last month's items on dental service. I believe we will be hearing and seeing more from Paul on similar subjects at future meetings. Our thanks to Paul and to Vicki Ferguson who have picked up from Jack Gurney who gave us many fine items to review for many months.

BOOK RAFFLE/PRESERVATION

Tom Tate reported members purchased 121 raffle tickets at our March meeting and with a donation of \$5.00 we added another \$126.00 to our preservation fund. We now have \$943.00 in the fund. Tom thanks the Round Table for their strong support of battlefield preservation.

In addition to bringing an interesting collection of Civil War era medical tools Paul Foust and Vicki Ferguson donated another book, "*With My Face to the Enemy*." This book is a collection of essays by prominent Civil War historians and writers covering

different perspectives on the war. I have read this book and it is very good each essay does a fine job with each topic. Look for this book at our April raffle. As always we thank Paul and Vicki for their continued contributions. Thanks also to the donor who contributes to preservation but takes no tickets.

Tom provided the Round Table with the Civil War Preservation Trust 2004 report on the ten most endangered battlefields. Here listed are those battlefields. Chancellorsville, Virginia; Franklin, Tennessee; Fort Donaldson, Tennessee; Glendale/Fraser's Farm, Virginia; "The Hell Hole," Georgia; Mansfield, Louisiana; Morris Island, South Carolina; New Bern, North Carolina; South Mountain, Maryland and Wilson's Creek, Missouri. There were some comments made during the meeting regarding Mansfield which is faced with an immediate problem involving the possible loss of some 60 acres due to strip mining.

MARCH PROGRAM REVIEW

Our speaker for the evening was Byron W. Childress, his topic "Blacks in the Civil War Navy." Mr. Childress appeared in period dress of a Union Navy sailor he spoke with the desire to identify and promote the history of black sailors in the United States Navy during the Civil War.

In 1861 faced with a task of blockading the Confederate coast with a limited force, the United States Navy turned to African-Americans to fill the naval ranks. As the navy grew in size a shortage of sailors created a critical problem. African-American seamen provided a solution. Many blacks had a tradition of service with the navy, plus naval skills, that went back to the Revolutionary War. While they provided little impact in the Revolutionary War and later the War of 1812 they had served with distinction in all of America's previous conflicts prior to the Civil War. However, they represented only about 5% of the navy's manpower by the start of the Civil War. Blacks were also numerous in the antebellum merchant marine service, filling jobs considered disreputable and beneath the dignity of most pre-war Americans.

The number of African-Americans who enlisted in the Union navy is open to debate. The navy enlisted about 118,000 men, regardless of race, during the war. The first research into black sailors fixed them at 25%, 32,000 men, in the Union navy. Later research by the National Park Service estimated 24,000 black men or 16% enlisted. It is probable an exact figure will never be known since the navy did not classify sailors by race. This is an interesting point when we think of the highly race-conscious era.

Mr. Childress spoke of a number of differences regarding black sailors and soldiers. He noted that recruitment of black sailors was quite different from enlisting black soldiers. Black sailors had served the United States from the start and due to this long tradition of service to the nation their entrance into the navy in large numbers caused little stir. Northern racist, white public pressure and federal policy kept black soldiers out of the war while black sailors fought for the Union. Naval service was not considered socially elevating and sailors of all races were considered the dregs of society. While soldiers were usually held in low esteem there were men in the army who attained high social standing and the army held a slightly higher social standing in the country. It was also felt that black soldiers would elevate an inferior people to a minimal status with whites. During the war the states recruited the army's volunteer regiments, the navy retained its own recruiting responsibilities. Thus the states had no say in whom the navy recruited.

A major difference in recruiting was African-American sailors represented mostly urban northern free blacks while black soldiers were overwhelmingly rural southern slaves who fled slavery to enlist in the Union army. To the benefit of the navy the black sailors were often skilled laborers from large northern cities. Once they enlisted black sailors fought from the very first days of the war and were fully integrated with ships crews. Segregation on a ship was not practicable and this integration led to less racism as crews functioned together. The army did not fully recruit in large numbers until 1863 and the army segregated its black troops into "colored" units. While black and white sailors at best learned to respect each other and enjoyed relatively harmonious race relations the army did little to quell racism in the ranks. Our speaker pointed out other areas of difference between blacks in the service. The navy paid its black sailors wages equal to its white crewmen the army did not until 1864. Black sailors shared equally in prize money this provided the sailors in good times with several years' wages from the prize money. Weapons, uniforms, food and medical care all surpassed its army equivalent for black sailors. In terms of combat African-American sailors shared the dangers alongside their white shipmates, in many instances the army regulated black troops to relatively unimportant support roles. Eight black sailors received the Medal of Honor while sixteen soldiers received the same honor. Lastly, the navy equally applied its criminal justice system to its African-American recruits the army again was not as liberal in this treatment.

Mr. Childress noted that black women contributed their efforts during the war. They functioned as cooks, laundresses and nurses many of the nurses trained by catholic nuns. He stated the navy's first nurses were black women. While our speaker did not identify a number of blacks by name he did point to one that he defined as a hero Robert Smalls. Smalls was a slave, but he was also a skilled seaman. Smalls took a cotton steamer, The Planter, carrying ammunition and guns and worked his way through Confederate forts and batteries and turned his prize over to Union naval forces. Smalls intelligence and courage was well recognized and his actions refuted the pro-slavery argument that blacks were inferior to whites.

As I often state space in our newsletter does not permit a highly detailed review on our speaker's comments, but hopefully we have touched on some of his highlights and recognize his views of African- Americans in the Union navy. We can say that it was quite evident in our speaker's presentation that he found the treatment of our black sailors superior to that of our black soldiers. It is also reasonable to state that the Union navy achieved its goals with the assistance of African-American sailors. Whether fighting on rivers or the high seas these men proved their worth to the Union and they demonstrated that courage, loyalty and ability knew no race. Our Round Table thanks Byron W. Childress for an informative and interesting presentation.

DID YOU KNOW

Civil War medicine was in a time before doctors even knew much about bacteriology and knew little of what caused disease. The medical side of the war was not a pretty story, nor a glorious one. Walt Whitman wrote that he believed the "real war" would never get into books, this medical side is what he was talking about. However, it is important that we recall as best we can the medical side of the conflict, as horrible as it was.

For the most part doctors during the Civil War had two years of medical school. We were well behind Europe, at Harvard Medical School they did not own a single stethoscope or microscope until after the war. Yet for the most part the Civil War doctor, as understaffed, sometimes unqualified, and usually under supplied, did the best he could while exploring through the so-called "medical middle ages."

Some 10,000 surgeons served in the Union and about 4,000 served the Confederacy. While medicine advanced each year of the war it was tragic that medical knowledge of the 1860's had not yet encompassed the use of sterile dressings, antiseptics and the realization of the importance of sanitation and hygiene. This caused many deaths from diseases such as typhoid or dysentery.

The deadliest thing that faced the Civil War soldier was disease. For every soldier who died in battle, two died of disease. Diarrhea and dysentery alone claimed more men than did battle wounds. A soldier also faced outbreaks of measles, small pox, malaria, pneumonia and camp itch. In brief the large amount of these diseases were caused by a.) inadequate physicals before induction; b.) plain old ignorance; c.) the fact many troops came from rural areas; d.) neglect of camp hygiene; e.) insects and vermin; f.) exposure; g.) poor clothing and shoes; h.) poor food and water. Diseases cruelly weeded out men who should never have been allowed to enter the army. Troops crowded together for the first time in large numbers got diseases they had no immunity to fight off. Camp sanitation and hygiene led to a sort of "trial and error" system to see what worked best. The three leading killer diseases of the war were typhoid, dysentery and pneumonia. The Civil War diet of soldiers was somewhere between barely palatable and absolutely awful. It was a wonder all soldiers did not die of acute indigestion.

Doctors tried many cures, with some success. Mercury and chalk, called "blue mass" for bowel problems, green vegetables for scurvy, opium, quinine and mustard plasters for pneumonia and bronchitis. Malaria could be treated with quinine or turpentine. Medicines sometimes caused more harm than good. Opium was also widely used as a pain killer and to control diarrhea. The administration of opium was so prevalent many patients became addicted. This addiction was so commonplace that for years after the war it was known as the "soldier's disease." Whiskey and other forms of alcohol were used to treat wounds and disease, though questionably medically, whiskey did relieve pain. The medicines brought in to try and halt diseases were manufactured in the north for the most part, southerners had to deal with running the blockade to obtain them. Much was also smuggled into the south. However, a great deal of the southern medical supplies came from captured Union stores.

This is a brief look at the medical side of the Civil War, the war that took place in the "Medical Middle Ages." A brief look at comparing it to the medicine of today makes it easy to understand why it was viewed as horrible. This final point offers one positive view to come from medicine in the Civil War. The status of medical personnel changed during the Civil War. It was the first war in history in which medical personnel and wounded were treated as non-combatants. This fact of the war set a precedent later adopted by the League of Nations.

Next month in "Did You Know" we will take a look at Civil War surgery to see if that field of medicine was worse than "horrible."

CIVIL WAR USAGE

MUZZLELOADER---A weapon that had to be loaded from its muzzle rather than its breech. Although breechloaders were predominant among revolvers and rifles long before the war ended, the majority of cannon were muzzleloaders.

LIMBER---A two wheeled horse drawn carriage that was used to haul a cannon and its carriage. The limber also contained an ammunition chest, a tool chest, tar and water buckets, and a tarpaulin.

TO DRESS---To straighten a line of men and maintain a specified interval between each man.

DOUGHBOY---A derisive term used by cavalymen of the infantry.

TO BE IN THE AIR---Usually used in connection with accounts of troop movements, this term indicated the consequences of being forced into an area without protection or support on either flank.

APRIL QUIZ

Q.1 On the second day, January 2, 1863, of the Battle of Stone's River or Murfreesboro the heart of the Federal position was a dense four-acre grove known locally as the Round Forest. After the battle it was called by another name due to the fierce fighting that took place there. Soldiers who fought in this area dubbed the woods by this other name. Can you identify this name?

Q.2 This battle is the only Civil War battle in which cannon fire, firing over open sights at the advancing Confederate forces, caused more casualties than rifle fire. Name this battle?

Q.3 This Federal Naval officer, along with two Army officers, represented three dominant military personalities who worked well together. One of the army officers referred to the naval officer, partly in jest, as the "Lord High Admiral." The other army officer believed him to be the equal of Britain's Lord Nelson. Can you identify the naval officer and his two army friends?

APRIL MEETING

Our April meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday April 13, 2004**. Meeting time is 6:30PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. We request members planning to attend the meeting to make reservations by the cutoff date of **Wednesday April 7**. For our April meeting the number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533** if you leave a message please speak clearly. Dinner selections for the April meeting include **Shepherd's Pie, Baked Manicotti and Grilled Salmon**. Our dinner price is \$16.00.

For our April meeting our members will have an opportunity to hear one of the more prominent Civil War writers and historians. Professor Craig L. Symonds is Professor of History at the United States Naval Academy where he has taught since 1976. He studied at UCLA and has both his graduate degrees from the University of Florida. Professor Symonds is the author of seven books and his biography of Confederate Admiral Franklin Buchanan will be offered at our April raffle. A lucky winner can get an autograph.

Professor Symonds talk will be on the Battle of Mobile Bay where Union Admiral David G. Farragut and Admiral Buchanan fought against each other. This will be one of the years premiere programs so plan to attend we should have a great evening. We can

also get the facts on the expression, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead." See you in April.

MEMBERS VIEW

Member Joe Schaeffer provided the Newsletter with this review.

JACOB G. FRICK---A FORGOTTEN HERO OF THE GETTYSBURG CAMPAIGN

Jacob Frick did not participate in the Battle of Gettysburg. But he was nonetheless important for his contribution in the campaign, He is certainly an overlooked local hero.

Frick was born in Northumberland County on January 23, 1825. He served with distinction in the Mexican War, being promoted to Second Lieutenant of the 11th U.S. infantry in June 1846.

The first year of the Civil War found Jacob Frick as Lt. Colonel of the 96th Pa. Infantry. He resigned in July 1862, to assume command of the 129th Pa. a new nine month regiment.

Frick led his regiment in the final assault against Marye's Heights, at Fredericksburg, on December 13, 1862. The 129th was the front left regiment, on the left flank of the 5th Corps. When several color bearers went down, Frick grabbed the flag and went forward. The flagstaff was shot off next to his head, but Frick though wounded, continued on with the flag draped over his shoulder. Burial details reported the dead and wounded of the 129th, to be found closest to the wall of any Union regiment.

May 3, 1863 found Frick at Chancellorsville, fighting a desperate rear guard action defending Union artillery. The 129th fought despite the expiration of the enlistments of most of its men. The fighting was hand-to-hand with the 129th twice losing and then recapturing its flag. The mustering out on May 18th left Frick without a command.

The emergency caused by Lee's invasion of the north, in June of 1863, offered one more opportunity for Frick and he did not hesitate to respond.

Leading the 27th Pa. Militia, Frick was ordered by General Darius Couch to deny Lee's troops access across the Susquehanna River via the Wrightsville and Columbia Bridge.

Frick had his men dig trenches in a semi-circle on the outskirts of Wrightsville. Lacking artillery support, he knew his ragtag militia could not hold off John Gordon's battle hardened brigade of Early's division.

Colonel Frick put carpenters to work weakening arches and inserting powder charges designed to destroy a center span of the 1 1/4 mile bridge.

Jubal Early launched the assault on the Wrightsville defenses at 6:00PM on June 28, forcing the militia to retreat. Frick ordered the powder charges to be ignited. At 7:30 a thunderous explosion rocked the bridge, but the center span held. Fortunately, Frick had taken the additional measure of soaking the middle section with kerosene and crude oil.

The bridge was set afire, with the last Union troops barely escaping ahead of the flames and Rebel troops. Despite valiant attempts to douse the flames, the Rebels watched as the entire bridge burned and fell into the Susquehanna.

June 29 found Lee's attention turned away from the Susquehanna River, towards Gettysburg. Jacob Frick had done his duty.

On June 7, 1892, Jacob Frick was awarded the Medal of Honor for his deeds at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. He died on March 5, 1892 and is buried in Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

Colonel Jacob Frick deserves to be mentioned among the heroes who served and saved the Union.

MISCELLANEOUS

I noted in our business section of the newsletter that addition information on our summer field trip would be available before the newsletter goes to the printer. Rich Kennedy our tour leader has provided that information. Attached to the newsletter is complete information on the coming field trip. Those planning to attend should review this information and follow the instructions to place reservations for the trip. Any questions regarding the trip, Rich is the man to contact.

I received a request to provide the following note in the newsletter regarding a coming Civil War program to be held at St. Daniel's Lutheran Church, 480 Big Spring Road, Robeson, Pennsylvania. This program will be held on Saturday May 1, 2004 between 10AM and 3PM. The program will be an art display of some of the work of Bradley Schmehl and an hour lecture by Mr. Schmehl on the topic of "Events Leading Up to War." I was advised the talk would be from 2 to 3PM. Mr. Schmehl is a resident of York, Pennsylvania and has produced prints, as he identifies them, on The Valley Campaign Series, The Gettysburg Series and individual prints. There is no charge to attend this program and presentation.

I spoke to the coordinator of this program a Mr. Fred Davis and he indicated they would be interested in speaking with any reenacting group or individuals who may want to play a part in the program with some type of living history setup. If any of our members who are involved in reenacting is interested in speaking with Mr. Davis he can be reached at his home at 610-678-2444. If interested please call as soon as possible.

One final item, if by chance any member does not receive a copy of the monthly newsletter at the time you might expect to receive it please call me and I will mail one to you as soon as possible.

Tony Reilly
610-921-3131
Newsletter Editor

FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT
MANASSAS WEEKEND
5-6 JUNE 2004

Cost: \$150.00 p/p double occupancy
[Anyone desiring a private room, add \$45.00]

Membership priority until 15 April [aka Uncle Sam's free-will offering day].
Trip payment must be received by that date. After this date non-members will be heartily welcomed. Please call Richard at 610.779.6923 for guest-seating availability.

SATURDAY

- 6:00AM Departure from Kutztown: University
- 6:25 Departure from Marshall's [Broadcasting Square]
- 10:00 Arrive Manassas Battlefield Visitors Center
[necessities, view diorama, meet guide]
- 10:30 Begin "First Manassas" tour [Confederacy guide: Chuck Weatherhead]
- 1:00PM Lunch at *Old Country Buffet*
- 2:00 Continue "First Manassas" tour
- 5:00 Arrive Comfort Suites. Relax.
- 5:30-6:15 Tentative impromptu wine & cheese soiree
- 7:30 Leave for dinner in Old Town Manassas
- 7:40 Arrive *Carmello's & Little Portugal Restaurant* [Speaker, Paul Goss:
"The Battle of Chantilly/Ox Hill"]
- 9:30+/- Depart for Comfort Suites

SUNDAY

- 6:30-8:00 Self-serve complimentary breakfast
- 8:15 AM Depart for Manassas Battlefield Visitor's Center
- 8:30 Begin "Second Manassas" tour. [Confederacy guide: Paul Goss]
- 1:00 PM+/- Lunch-and-leisure in Old Town Manassas
[choose from several close-proximity restaurants: *City Tavern*,
Philadelphia Tavern, *Foster's Grille*, *Subway*]
- 2:30 PM+/- Depart Old Town Manassas
- 6:30 +/- Arrive Kutztown University

NOTE: ~Trip cost is all-inclusive EXCEPT Sunday lunch in Old Town Manassas.
~Wearing your First Defenders shirt is definitely encouraged.
~Seating directly behind bus driver, and directly behind door-entry needs to be reserved for hosts and guides.
~*Carmello's* is fine dining... but not too fine for us.
~Old Town Manassas is very small, not sprawling like Gettysburg.

SAVE THIS ITINERARY!



The Web Foot Flotilla
African Americans in the Civil War Navy 1861-1865
Byron W. Childress

Bibliography

- Black men in Navy Blue During The Civil War... Dr. Joseph P. Reidy Prolog Magazine Fall 2001, Vol. 33, No.3
- Notes and Announcements, Journal of Black History Vol. 32, Fall 1995
- Civil War History Magazine, June 2001 "Frictions": Shipboard Relations between White and Contraband Sailors. Author/s Michael J. Bennett
- Life in Lincoln's Navy By Dennis Ringle, U.S. Naval Institute Press
- Black Jacks by Dr. W. Jeffery Bolster Cambridge University Press, Copyright 1997
- Black American in the Navy All Hands 634 (Nov, 1969): 2631
- Hailey, Leonard W. "Role of Black Sailors In the Major wars of America" All Hands 679 (Aug. 1973): 5561
- Hope, Richard O. Racial Strife in the U.S. Military: Toward the Elimination of Discrimination. New York: Praeger, 1979. OCLC 5491621.
- Nelson, Dennis D. The Integration of the Negro Into the Navy 1776 – 1947. New York: Farrar, Straus
- Quarles, Benjamin A. The Negro in the Making of America. 3d ed. New York: collier Books, 1996
- Naval Landing Party, Integration in the U.S. Navy "Correcting a Misconception, By C.L. Veit, Lt., USNLP
- A Grand Army of Black Men By Edwin S. Redkey, Letters from African American Soldiers in the Union Army, 1861 – 1865, Chapter 9, The Navy, Cambridge University Press, 1992.
- Divided Waters, The Naval History of the Civil War, Ivan Musicant, Castile Books 1943
- Slaves, Sailors, Citizens, African Americans in the Union Navy, Steven J. Ramold, Northern Illinois Press, 2002
- Under the Blue Pennant or Notes of a Naval Officer 1863-1865, by John W. Grattan, Acting Ensign, U.S. Navy, Edited by Robert J. Schneller John Wiley & Sons Inc. 1999

THE FIRST DEFENDERS

THE FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

MAY 2004

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

Our April meeting was attended by 66 members and guest. Dave Valuska opened the meeting by requesting a treasurer's report from Arlan Christ. Arlan reported a balance of \$3,903.00, new income \$1,102.00, new expenses \$1,570.86 giving the Round Table a new balance of \$3,434.15. Arlan noted our preservation fund prior to our April meeting was \$943.00.

Dave requested the membership give consideration as to where we may want to contribute preservation money. He suggested any member calling for reservations for our May meeting can offer a suggestion on their choice of a preservation gift during the call. If a member is not coming to the May meeting they may still call with a choice if you have one. The number to call is 610-683-1533 or e-mail Dave at Valuska@kutztown.edu.

Dave advised the members that the present Board of Directors are willing to continue in their present respective assignments. However, if any member has an interest in joining the board please contact Dave at the number listed above or make your interest known at the May meeting. We will vote at our May meeting on confirming board members for next year's campaign.

Dave provided a review of our program schedule for next year. A question is under review regarding December's meeting. Should we have a musical program as we have had in past Decembers or a regular program with a speaker. If you have an opinion make it known at the May meeting. Hopefully we can provide a final program schedule in our September newsletter.

Rich Kennedy stated we have 38 reservations for our field trip in June. If interested contact Rich as soon as possible a few seats remain.

A new member certificate and a Round Table welcome was given to new member Allan Benson. Welcome Allan!

OUR HISTORY TABLE

Paul Foust provided our history table with the following interesting items. A monomial stethoscope made of hard rubber with a metal tube, a metal hearing aid, a matched pair of brass candlesticks and a traveling set of candlesticks made for easy transportation. Paul also provided a soldiers sewing kit, called a folding housewife, containing a thimble, pins needles and thread. Thank you Mr.Foust!

BOOK RAFFLE/PRESERVATION

The members, either through ticket purchases, direct contributions or buying a winning ticket from a member or guest, raised another \$144.00 for preservation. Our new preservation balance stands at \$1,087.00. Thanks again go to Paul Foust and Vicki Ferguson for donating *Tarnished Eagles*, a book about the court-martial of fifty Union Colonels and Lieutenant Colonels.

Preservation chairman Tom Tate states we will need to vote on one or more recipients for preservation gifts. We should have close to \$1,200.00 in the fund by the end of our May meeting. He notes we may want to contribute some money to our trip hosts at Manassas and another possible site is Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. Their battle to prevent public development in the Chancellorsville area continues. They have the opportunity to purchase some sixteen acres near the Jackson Flank attack. This area was the bivouac grounds for the 74th Pennsylvania Infantry, so it comes close to home. These sixteen acres would be an important addition to the Chancellorsville Battlefield.

APRIL PROGRAM REVIEW

Our speaker for our April meeting was Professor Craig L. Symonds who is a history professor at the United States Naval Academy where he has taught since 1976. Professor Symonds spoke on the role of Confederate naval officer Admiral Franklin Buchanan and the naval battle of Mobile Bay. Our speaker opened his comments by stating that Franklin Buchanan was the only full Admiral in the Confederate Navy. He stated that the Confederate Navy had few officers of note, that in addition to Admiral Buchanan, Rear Admiral Raphael Semmes who commanded the CSS Alabama and Lieutenant Commander James Iredall Waddell who commanded the CSS Shenandoah were probably the only two other naval officers of great note. In these opening comments he presented an interesting view of Admiral Buchanan when he said that the Admiral will be remembered less for what he did, than for what he did not do.

Mr. Symonds spoke of Buchanan as a man who lusted for glory, honor and recognition. Born near Baltimore, Maryland his father was a physician and his mother the daughter of a prominent Philadelphia family. Buchanan obtained a U.S. Navy midshipman's warrant at the age of 14 during the War of 1812, but the war ended before he could report for duty. He then entered the naval service at age 15. When the Civil War broke out he had served some 45 years in the U.S. Navy.

We were then introduced to some highlights of Buchanan's pre-civil war career by our speaker. These included his role as the founding superintendent of the Naval Academy in 1845-1846, his command of the sloop Germantown in the war with Mexico 1847-1848 and as captain of Matthew C. Perry's flagship, 1853-1854, during the expedition to Japan where he conducted the negotiations that led to a state of cordial relations between the United States and Japan.

In command of the Washington Naval Yard Buchanan was witness to the 6th Massachusetts Regiment passing through Baltimore on its way to Washington in anticipation of the civil war when it was assailed by a civilian mob. When the troops opened fire resulting in soldiers and civilians being killed Buchanan was shocked and the event provoked him to tender his resignation from the navy in the expectation that Maryland would secede and join the Confederacy. When Maryland did not secede he sought to recall his resignation. Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles said "no" informing Buchanan that his name was to be struck from the navy list. Welles did not want "half hearted patriots." Greatly upset Buchanan eventually offered his services to the Confederate Navy. After some administrative assignments he was posted to command the newly reconstructed ironclad steamer Virginia, formally the USS Merrimack. In the Virginia's historic battle with the USS Monitor Buchanan was not in command of his ship having been wounded in the upper thigh by Federal troops the day before the great naval fight.

Our speaker noted that the Civil War navies started the war with ships of wood and sail but technology changed the face of naval ships to steel and steam. Buchanan embraced technological change in the navy believing these type changes gave the Confederate fleet its only chance against the much larger U.S. Navy fleet. Improved ship design, not the number of ships was the Confederate Navy's best hope. The success of the Virginia on day one of its battles with Federal warships, which was the South's greatest naval victory in the war, gave hope to the Confederacy for some success on the high seas.

After recovering from his wound in March of 1862 Buchanan was promoted to the rank of full Admiral in August of 1862 and assigned a naval command in Mobile Bay, Alabama. At the age of 63 Buchanan set to work to create a naval force to protect the bay. In May 1864 he could finally boast that a fully armed and manned Confederate ironclad floated in Mobile Bay, the CSS Tennessee. On August 5, 1864 the Federal fleet offshore under the command of Rear Admiral David G. Farragut, got underway with the intention of fighting its way into Mobile Bay. Mr. Symonds gave us a detailed review of this battle which space does not permit in this review. Highlights of the fight begin with the sinking of the USS Tecumseh, a Federal ironclad monitor, which struck a mine (called a torpedo) and went to the bottom in just 25 seconds taking 93 men with it. Farragut's fleet stalled in confusion by this disaster galvanized itself, according to some accounts, by Admiral Farragut's famous call "Damn the torpedoes. Full speed ahead." The Union fleet continued its attack that eventually ended in a Federal victory at Mobile Bay. Mr. Symonds suggested that Admiral Farragut's words "Damn the torpedoes" may have been a frustration stated at the loss of the USS Tecumseh and "Full speed ahead" an order to continue the attack. Whatever was meant by the statement history has put them together and we have what we have.

Admiral Buchanan was wounded in this fight when a Federal shell smashed his leg. He was taken prisoner and sent to Fort Lafayette in New York and in March 1865 he was exchanged. He was again captured at war's end then released. Buchanan served as President of Maryland Agricultural College, later to be named the University of Maryland. The Admiral valued sobriety, personal responsibility, diligence and an old sailor discipline. He was a product of his time. Admiral Franklin Buchanan died at home on Maryland's Eastern Shore on May 11, 1874 survived by his wife and nine children. As our speaker stated he was proud to the end to have been a Confederate Admiral.

This was an excellent presentation by Professor Symonds we the members of the Round Table owe and extend a sincere thank you to our speaker for his visit with us and for providing us with a most enjoyable evening.

DID YOU KNOW

Last month we reviewed Civil War medicine and identified disease as the primary killer of soldiers during the war. While this is a fact, wars have battles and battles have casualties. In the Civil War battle casualties were caused by three primary factors, muskets and pistols 93%, artillery 5%, bayonets and sabers 2%. Of these three muskets and pistols probably caused the most horrible casualties in the conflict and the reason for the high amputation rate that went hand in hand with Civil War medicine. The musket fired the cylindrical lead bullet, the minie ball, large and heavy at .58 caliber. When it hit bone it tended to expand and caused injuries which destroyed bone and tissue beyond any hope of repair.

Many people throughout history have defined the Civil War surgeon as a heartless individual who performed only amputations due to questionable ability and medical training. The surgery of the battlefields has been pronounced as butchery and the Civil War surgeon suffers from being called a butcher or some other derisive term. It is certainly true that there were incompetent surgeons in the military service. It is just as true that American surgeons were a class of men who will favorably compare with the military surgeons of any other country. Most of these men labored faithfully and with great success, some lost their life in the service of their country. The good that they did was often overlooked by magnifying the evil of a few incompetents.

As we noted last month some 10,000 Northern and 4,000 Confederate physicians served the armies of the Civil War. These doctors were ill prepared for what they faced. In the North only 500 doctors had performed surgery, in the South only 27, a fact hard to believe. Many doctors received their introduction to surgery on the battlefield. With only two years of medical school doctors usually did not specialize. Doctors became surgeons by adapting, they learned on the job. Unfortunately until they learned people died. Of the wounds recorded in the Civil War 70% plus were to the extremities making amputation the common operation of the war. On the battlefield a crude system of triage was performed. This was the allocation of attention to a wounded soldier based on a priority and the best chance of saving that soldier over others who were presumed to have less chance of surviving due to the type of their wound. Men wounded through the head, belly or chest were left to one side because they most likely would die. While cruel and heartless by present day standards it allowed surgeons to not waste precious time and to save those who could be saved with prompt attention during the war. Amputations, as horrible as they were, saved many lives. Again most wounds were caused by the minie bullet and they were ugly wounds. Head shot and gut shot almost always were a death sentence.

The Civil War surgeon operated in old blood and puss stained coats, and their instruments were not cleaned to make them free from infection. If a sponge or instrument fell to a floor or ground it was washed and squeezed in an undisinfected basin of water and used as if clean on the next patient. There was no such thing as antiseptic surgery during the war. The field hospital was hell on earth. The surgeons stood over the operating table, whatever it was at the time, for hours without letup. The wounded screamed in delirium or laid pale and quiet due to shock. A positive aspect of Civil War surgery was the use of anesthesia which was common and widespread. Also a good surgeon could amputate a limb in less than ten minutes. If the soldier was lucky, he would recover without one of the so-called "surgical fevers," such as blood poisoning, tetanus or gangrene. If not lucky, well the mortality rate for the fevers was about 85%. The mortality rate for primary amputation was 28%, this of course gave the patient a 72% chance to live. If a second amputation was required the mortality rate increased to 52%.

Fifteen years after the war five principal advances of Civil War surgery were identified. Surgeons learned something about "head injuries", how to deal with "ghastly wounds" without dismay, how to "ligate arteries", information on injuries to spine and vertebrae had been "augmented", and "theory and practice" in chest wounds had been moved forward. Unfortunately these advances did not provide much relief to the Civil War soldier from 1861 to 1865.

Along with last months "Did You Know" I hope this provides an interesting though basic introduction to Civil War medicine and surgery. As to the question of Civil War surgery being as horrible as Civil War medicine the word can apply to any and all aspects of Civil War Battlefield Medicine and Surgery.

CIVIL WAR USAGE

HOSPITAL FLAG---In late 1863 a flag was adopted to mark hospital facilities and vehicles carrying medical personnel. The flag had yellow bunting with a green letter "H" in the center.

TO DEPLOY---(1) To increase the length of a line of troops by depleting the depth of the line. (2) The placement of units in line of battle or in a desired position on a battlefield.

GARRISON---Infantry or other units assigned to occupy a fort with permanent quarters and specific duty areas. Can apply to artillery units assigned to such fixed fortifications.

REDOUBT---(1) An addition to a permanent fortress. (2) A small field fortification, often hastily constructed, that is enclosed on all sides.

FIELD GRADE OFFICER---Any officer who functioned in the field of battle rather than at a command post. In practice, this category included all commissioned officers below the rank of Brigadier General. When a Colonel, Major or Captain commanded a brigade he was considered a General Grade Officer.

MAY QUIZ

Q.1 The Battle of Chancellorsville may well have been the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia's greatest victory. However, a Confederate soldier and historian made this statement regarding the battle "decidedly the best strategy conceived in any of the campaigns ever set on foot against us." Can you name the author of this statement and whom the author paid tribute to with this statement?

Q.2 The history of any and all wars is generally remembered by battles we call "decisive." Gettysburg, Normandy, Midway come to mind, but sometimes a small action battle of limited consequence will, for some reason, live on in history. The fight at Balaklava and the suicidal British cavalry charge by the Light Brigade and The Alamo provide legend that was larger than the battles themselves. In the spring of 1864 the great battles of Grant's Overland Campaign were underway. In the Shenandoah Valley a small action fight was fought in a thunderstorm over low marshy ground that today in the lore of the South has been known as "the field of lost shoes." Name this battle and how it received this interesting name?

Q.3 Prior to becoming Confederate warships these two ships, the CSS Alabama and CSS Shenandoah, were initially christened by other names when launched. Can you identify them by their christened names and associate there christened name with each of the Confederate warships?

MAY MEETING

Our May meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday May 11, 2004**. Meeting time is 6:30PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs. We request members planning to attend the meeting to make reservations by the cutoff date of **Wednesday May 5**. For our May meeting the number to call for reservations is **610-683-1533** if you leave a message please speak clearly. Dinner selections for the May meeting include **Quakertown Roast, Baked Haddock and Pot Pie**. Our dinner price is \$16.00.

Please remember if you wish to recommend a preservation site for a gift consideration you may do so on your reservation call. Our speaker for the May meeting will be Ms. Terry Latscher a Gettysburg Park Ranger. Ms. Latscher will do an impression of Ms. Tilly Pierce, a women of Gettysburg who lived through the battle. At this time I have no other information on our speaker or her subject so come to the meeting and we'll all gain information on what should be an interesting presentation.

MEMBERS VIEW

Member Linda Zeiber provided the Newsletter with an interesting article, written by her, on "Musings of April." It probably would have been more appropriate for our April newsletter but space was an issue and we can make believe April is still with us. Linda's "Musings of April" is attached to the newsletter.

With some space to fill I looked for something that could be of interest to all of us. I found an item about music and the military. These songs relate not only to the Civil War.

During the Revolutionary War British troops sang a song called "Yankee Song as a mockery of our armed forces. Following the fight at Concord the American troops sang the song as their anthem of victory in this fight. The song would get new words and a new name "Yankee Doodle" and would gain fame in later years by George M. Cohan's "Yankee Doodle Boy."

William Steffe's "O Brothers Will You Meet Me On Canaan's Farther Shore" almost disappeared in the Civil War, but a Massachusetts infantry company rescued the tune and composed a tribute to a fallen leader, Sgt. John Brown. As we know the Union Army sang "John Brown's Body" across the country and Julia Ward Howe wrote new lyrics and we have "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" our nations patriotic psalm.

Union bandmaster Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore wrote "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" in time for General Robert E. Lee's surrender, but the song achieved its greatest success during the Spanish-American War and by Glen Miller's Air Force Band in 1942.

Army private Irving Berlin wrote "Oh How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning" and "God Bless America" for an army show in 1918. During World War 1 no one heard "God Bless America" but Kate Smith's 1938 Armistice Day program made it an American hit.

A Marine officer serving in the Mexican War in 1847 authored "The Marines Hymn" the music taken from an opera titled "Genevieve de Brabant."

General Daniel Butterfield, from the Civil War, rewrote the popular "Tattoo" into the well-known "Taps" around 1862 to help burial details. Rifle salutes initiated return fire, but the bugle tribute did not.

Army Brigadier General Edmund Gruber wrote the popular song "The Army Goes Rolling Along" in 1909. John Phillip Sousa expanded it to the "Field Artillery March."

Bandmaster Charles Zimmerman of the United States Naval Academy and a midshipman created "Anchors Aweigh" started as a football song sung first at a 1906 Army-Navy game; won by Navy.

Asked to provide a tune for a football cheer, Army Lt. Philip Egner hummed one up during an evening walk. Lacking paper, he wrote "On Brave Old Army Team" on his cuff.

Of course "The Star -Spangled Banner" was scribble on the back of a letter by Frances Scott Key while on the British ship Surprise during the War of 1812.

Well, something a little different, I hope you liked it. See you all in May!
Tony Reilly-Newsletter Editor

Musings of April

by

Linda Zeiber

I love the month of 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 cruellest 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 beginnings 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, Virginia, 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, Virginia, 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, Virginia, 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 "Re-" 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, Virginia, on April the 26th.

This 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 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?

GETTYSBURG TRIP

21-22 June 2003

\$100.00 p/p double occupancy

[Singles desiring private accommodations, add \$30.00]

Cost is all-inclusive, i.e., transportation, lunch at "General Pickett's Buffets",* dinner at "The Orchard" [between Gettysburg/Chambersburg], lodging at Day's Inn [Chambersburg], Continental breakfast, battlefield tours. Efforts are being made to secure an after-dinner speaker for Saturday evening.

Our trip will be open to members only until the April meeting. Friends/spouses would be on stand-by until that date. After the April meeting, any remaining seats will be available on a first-come basis. Non-members will then be invited on the trip by advertising through the Reading and Allentown newspapers.

Departure will be from a Kutztown University parking area. If permission for parking can be granted, a second pick-up site will be designated in the Shillington area. Complete details/schedule will be mailed to participants two weeks prior to departure.

There is a minor time adjustment that differs from the information provided at the March meeting. Several persons have expressed concern that the 11AM departure from Gettysburg is unnecessarily premature. I must agree. The Sunday schedule will include touring the battlefield until 12 Noon. Then there will be time for lunch-and-leisure until 2PM. We will then depart Gettysburg and arrive at Kutztown U. at approximately 4:30 PM. [I lied about the all-inclusive cost.] Lunch-and-leisure will be an individual expense.

Special thanks go to Dr. Valuska for arranging the lunch and dinner locations, and also to Tom Tate for acquiring lodging for us. Gettysburg is teeming with activity during this period—especially during the 140th anniversary. Motels in the Gettysburg area will only accept reservations for two nights. [This is why we need to travel to chambersburg.]

Barry Adams, CWRT member, has graciously agreed to be our tour guide for the trip. Barry is a Licensed Battlefield Guide for the Gettysburg National Military Park and is looking forward to sharing his background on Gettysburg with us. We are truly fortunate to have Barry and his genuine enthusiasm accompany us. Unfortunately, there is the proverbial *caveat*. Barry is scheduled to become a grandfather the following week. If the brand-new grandson arrives a week earlier, understandably, Barry would be unavailable. Efforts are being made to have a companion tour guide who could then assume Barry's role if the happy occasion is earlier than anticipated.

As I mentioned in my final remarks at the March meeting, communication is essential for any successful endeavor. If you believe I have overlooked some aspect regarding this trip, please do not hesitate to contact me. If the idea is not feasible, I will explain why.

Despite my dreaded dry humor [or the lack thereof] at the March meeting, I, too, am enthusiastic, and will make every effort [along with my wife Cathie] to provide an interesting and flawless weekend for you.

Rich Kennedy

610.779.6923

Kenwyck1@AOL

*Apparently our reputation precedes us. G.P.B. has us listed on the contract as "The First Offenders".