

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

Summer 2016



www.firstdefenderscwr.us

Round Table Business

The May 10, 2016, First Defenders Civil War Round Table meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Inn at Reading by President Craig Breneiser. Member Greg Stull offered a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 60 members and guests in attendance.

This meeting concluded our 19th campaign since the round table's inception. Craig announced that Gary Hertzog would be taking over the book raffle duties as a result of Cate Kennedy's decision to step down. He also introduced a guest, Bob Fields, as well as a new member, Rob Reardon. He reminded us that Bob Sharitts had been hospitalized but was now home recuperating.

Lori Border, treasurer, and Barbara Shafer, meal captain, also resigned from their respective positions. Kathy Little will be taking over for meal captain. The election of officers was held. Many chose to remain in their current positions. Resignations were given by Cate Kennedy, Barbara Shafer, and Lori Border. Names and information of current officers is found at the end of this newsletter. Joe Schaeffer moved to accept the slate of candidates while Rodney LaPearl seconded the motion which was accepted unanimously.

Vice President

Mark Quattrock announced that thirty name tags had been ordered and distributed. He anticipates taking new orders in August and September.

In the area of preservation, Mark announced that we had \$778.00 in the preservation fund not including the night's proceeds from the book raffle. He informed us of three Civil War Trusts's matching grants: Crossroads at 5:1 leverage; Appomattox at 8:1, and Power's Hill (Gettysburg) at 4:30 to 1. Our speaker for the evening, Don Scott, suggested a donation to the Camp William Penn Museum as well. \$100.00 was sent for each of these worthy causes for preservation.

Treasury

Treasurer **Lori Border** reported a beginning balance as of March 8, 2016, of \$2,914.60. Receipts totaled \$2520.30 with expenses of \$2455.44 leaving a balance of \$2979.46 on May 10, 2016.

Preservation had \$778.00 in its account.

Vice president, **Tim Antosy**, volunteered to take over the treasurer's position in the new season.

Membership

Membership chair Dave Sweigert announced that we finished the campaign with 103 members. Dave added that 72.5 people per event attended. These results are quite encouraging, and we hope for even more beginning our 20th campaign in September.

AAP

Barbara Shafer reported on the news from our Adopt-a-Position at Gettysburg. Seven round table members volunteered in April to check on and clean up the monuments that we are currently assigned. It was determined that the 6th PA monument needs to have painting done to the fences in the fall. Volunteers also decided to take on two more monuments.



Upcoming Events:

The Reamstown Historical Society Museum will be sponsoring Civil War Days on July 30, 2016. Our own members Craig Breneiser, Dave Fox, and Bob Shuman will be speaking. Reenactors from the 79th PA, the 1st Virginia Irish Brigade, and the 1st

Pennsylvania Regiment will be present. The events will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. rain or shine. Civil War photos, guns, and other artifacts will be on display as well.



Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net

Contact Information

President	Craig Breneiser	Craig.breneiser@gmail.com
Vice President	Tim Antosy	bcIU92@hotmail.com
Vice President	Mark Quattro	mquattro@outlook.com
Newsletter/Recording Secretary	Linda Zeiber	zeibers@comcast.net
Membership	David Sweigert	Davesweig@aol.com
Treasurer	Tim Antosy	Bciu92@hotmail.com
Preservation	Gary Hertzog	gshertzog@verizon.net
Meal Captain	Kathy Little	dklittle@dejazzd.com
Trips		
Adopt a Position/Trips	Don Stripling	donstripling54@msn.com
Webmaster	Lisa Breneiser	Lisa.Breneiser@gmail.com

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2016, the 20th Campaign



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By mid-August it becomes hot, very hot and humid, in east central Pennsylvania. In the evening, though, as I look out across the farmland I can see deer beginning to wander and fireflies glow hither and yon. Crops of corn, wheat and soybeans are growing full and green, soon to reach maturity. Though shortening days hearken the coming colors of autumn and eventual chill of winter, I am still buoyant for I know it is time to see old friends again and to meet new ones. It is time for the First Defenders Civil War Round Table once more!

And so it begins. Our 20th Anniversary Campaign! Nineteen times before have we gathered together to learn from historians, writers, re-enactors and, yes, each other to expand our knowledge and understanding of the defining event of this nation's comparatively brief history: the Civil War.

There are only a few "enlistees" who flocked to the colors of those first campaigns and who are still with us, but the stories and memories they can share from the early years about the programs, the trips and the people make newer "recruits" with less time in the ranks feel like we are "veterans," too. The spirit of those who have passed here before remains with us today.

Refreshed from our summer hiatus, we look forward to an outstanding, successful campaign from now until next May with some fresh faces like Edward Bonekemper, Paul Kahan and Edward Alexander, some folks who are well-known but new to us such as Steve French and Scott Mingus, our own comrades Sherri Stull and Bob Shuman, and, of course, old friends like Jeff Wert and Ed Bearss who we will welcome back once more.

It's time! Welcome to everyone...old friends and new... as we open our 20th Campaign!

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The Board of the First Defenders CWRT met on July 28, 2016, to discuss the upcoming campaign. Items for discussion will be shared with the membership during the September meeting. Please see Linda Zeiber, Recording Secretary, if you would like to have the minutes from the meeting.

Membership

It's time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2016-2017. Please fill out the membership form found on the website, and return it with your check as soon as possible. The deadline for payment is October 11, 2016. If you plan to pay your dues in person at the September or October meeting, please be sure to fill out **the renewal form** and **bring it along** with your payment.

Preservation/Book Raffle

Preservation Chair Gary Hertzog reported having an adequate supply of books for upcoming book raffles. Considering all leverages, the round table contributed \$16,300.00 to preservation last season.

Preservation Corner

Hard to believe in September we are starting our 20th Campaign Season as a round table. I wish to take this opportunity to first, thank all of you who supported our Preservation efforts. I am pleased to announce during the 19th Campaign Season we donated \$1500 and with matching grants from the Civil War Trust our Total Contributions came to \$16,300. In addition, the money we donated to the Trust went to a variety of different battlefields that involved the Eastern Theatre, the Western Theatre, the Trans-Mississippi, and farther West in Colorado and Oklahoma.

Included in the \$16,300 is a \$200 donation for the Conservancy that is helping to preserve all of the PA Flags that were from the Civil War. This is a very important project and the work they have done in preserving the flags with what resources they have available is pretty amazing. The flags themselves tell an important story of the bravery of the men who fought under these banners and the men who carried them.

I would like to once again thank Kathy Kennedy for the years she ran the book raffle. Her dedication and efforts in selling tickets at each meeting also, helped us in raising the money we have been able to raise and donate. Starting in September Gary Hertzog will be the new person who will be running the book raffle. Please, take this opportunity to thank Gary for volunteering and continue to support the raffle by buying tickets. I am really looking forward to working together with Gary to continue our preservation efforts.

Thanks everyone for a very successful Campaign Season. I hope everyone had a great summer and am looking forward to seeing you in September.

Until next time!

Mark Quattrochio

Name Tags

It is the beginning of a brand-new season and once again we are going to be taking orders for round table name tags. Anyone wishing to order a round table name tag please, fill out the order form located on the round table web site on the same page as the enlistment form. **Please, include your e-mail address if you have one and a telephone number. Also, please print your name.** Like the previous order, we will not include titles.

The **deadline** for submitting orders will be the **October round table meeting** after which, I will be submitting our order to Weikel Sportswear. **We will not be collecting money** until the order is completed at which time I will be letting those who ordered a tag know how much they owe.

Thanks everyone and looking forward to seeing everyone at our September meeting.

Mark Quattrochio

In Memoriam

On May 31, 2016, member Dennis Yeager passed away unexpectedly. He was 67 years old and had resided in Leesport. Dennis was a proud and enthusiastic member of the First Defenders. We are fortunate to have been with Dennis at our May meeting. He will be sorely missed.

Save the Date for AAP

Don Stripling has announced October 27, 2016, as the next work day at Gettysburg for our Adopt-A-Position endeavors. If you can spend the day working on monuments, contact Don or Barb Shafer for more information. Listen for announcements at the September and October meetings regarding AAP.

NPS Announces Centennial Ball

The National Park Service and Gettysburg Foundation are sponsoring a night of live music and dancing to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service on August 26, 2016, from 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Proceeds benefit Antietam, Gettysburg, Harpers Ferry, and Monocacy National Parks.

Music is provided by Philadelphia Brigade Band; the dancing is led by the Victorian Dance Ensemble. There will be a cash bar, refreshments, and a Civil War art exhibit. Period dress is welcome but not required.

Reserve your tickets at www.gettysburgfoundation.org or call 877-874-2478 for tickets or additional information. Couples: \$55, Single: \$30, Youth: \$15.

Reprinted from the Facebook page of the Hamburg Historical Society--



Did you know a Hamburg native forever watches over the battlefield at Gettysburg near the "high watermark" of Pickett's infamous charge? Or at least a statue of this Hamburg native, Private Joseph Lindemuth, posed at the ready, looks out over a now peaceful, hallowed ground.

Our #tbt for this week takes us to Gettysburg as the commemoration of the pivotal battle of Civil War begins tomorrow July 1 and continues through July 3. In the summer of 1863, all roads would lead to this small town just miles from the Maryland border. The clash of the Union and Confederate armies (approximately 165,000 soldiers combined) over three days would yield a Union victory and nearly 51,000 casualties (killed, wounded, captured or missing).

The Hamburg area was well represented at the battle. Men from our area volunteered to serve in many units but the main three at Gettysburg were the PA 151st Volunteer Infantry Company H, the PA 96th Volunteer Infantry Company G, and the 1st PA Volunteer Cavalry. Dozens of veterans who fought at Gettysburg are buried in the Hamburg area.

Private Lindemuth was a member of the 1st PA Volunteer Cavalry. His unit was held in reserve behind Cemetery Ridge, ready to counterattack if the Confederates broke through the Union line. The position of the monument on Hancock Avenue, near 'the Angle', marks the location of the unit. Private Lindemuth, fully equipped and kneeling down on one knee, posed as the model for his unit's memorial to its men. It was dedicated on September 2, 1890 and cost \$1500. Private Lindemuth is buried in Auburn.

I hope you will take a trip to Gettysburg and say hi to Joseph. But you may want to wait till the fall or spring to avoid the crush of tourists (all roads still do converge in Gettysburg in the summer it seems). It is one of my favorite places.

September Program: Author & Historian: Ed Alexander

The Most Brilliant and Successful Affair: The Battle of Rappahannock Station"



On November 7, 1863, two brigades of the Union Sixth Corps defied conventional tactics during their frontal bayonet charge against a like number of Confederates who protected a critical bridgehead on the Rappahannock River. Join Edward Alexander as he discusses the terrain and conditions that produced a Federal victory in this dramatic, yet overlooked engagement in the Virginia Autumn Campaign after Gettysburg.

Edward Alexander is a park ranger and historian at Pamplin Historical Park in Petersburg, Virginia, site of another successful Sixth Corps frontal assault on April 2, 1865. He has recently written *Dawn of Victory: Breakthrough at Petersburg*, about this latter engagement. Edward is an editor and contributor for *Emerging Civil War*. He currently resides in Richmond, Virginia.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, September 13, 2016 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for September include: Chicken Parmesan, Smoked Pork Chops, Butter Crumb Flounder with scampi sauce, or StirFry Vegetable Symphony with White Rice. Starch, Vegetables, salad, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon Friday, September 9, 2016, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. **This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not.** Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

****PLEASE NOTE: IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU PAY IN THE APPROPRIATE DOLLAR AMOUNT. WE DO NOT HAVE A CHANGE DRAWER. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT \$50 OR \$100 BILLS IN PAYMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



Contact Information

President	Craig Breneiser	Craig.breneiser@gmail.com
Vice President	Mark Quattrock	mquattrock@outlook.com
Newsletter/Recording Secretary	Linda Zeiber	zeibers@comcast.net
Membership	David Sweigert	Davesweig@aol.com
Treasurer	Tim Antosy	bciu92@hotmail.com
Preservation	Gary Hertzog	ghertzog@verizon.net
Meal Captain	Kathy Little	dklittle@dejazzd.com
Programs	Dave Unger	dsunger@comast.net
Webmaster	Lisa Breneiser	Lisa.Breneiser@gmail.com



**FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2016-2017**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State _____

Phone: _____

E-mail _____

Annual Membership fee of **\$25 is due by October 11, 2016.**

Please make the check payable to **The First Defenders CWRT** and mail to:

David Sweigert
2906 Curtis Road
West Lawn, PA 19609

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

October 2016



www.firstdefenderscwr.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I never experienced a child leaving the house for college or the military (although I often wondered when they would finally go!), so I did not have the opportunity to find out what kind of an emotional roller-coaster that could be. That is, until recently when I moved by eldest daughter into an apartment in Arlington as she started a new job. And, by the first week of October, she will relocate again, this time overseas to the United Kingdom for five months! Talk about shock!

Many First Defenders can relate to this experience as either they left their nest for other parts of the country or the world, and maybe again when their own children repeated the process. There is a mixed feeling of pride, dread and wonder at what lies ahead, along with abiding hope that a day of reunion will not be far off.

Our forbears, North and South, could certainly empathize as their young men (and sometimes women) went off to war. Diaries from the early months of the conflict when patriotism and yearning for adventure showed a measure of enthusiasm that was tempered only by the sadness of temporary parting. But, as the war dragged on, days of separation stretched on interminably along with the reality that many would never come home. The fears and desperation of the homefolk began to tell and letters written by soldiers talked more of worry, loneliness and dejection. Abraham Lincoln once said, "If there is a worse place than Hell, I am in it," and many families on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line shared in those feelings.

Without bad there can be no good, and without dark there can be no light. Like many parents before, I know I send my child into an uncertain world full of enthusiasm while I hold my breath, pray for her safety and eagerly anticipate her return. I find comfort communing spiritually with the mothers and fathers of the Civil War era...indeed, throughout history...who have travelled this well-worn path and managed, somehow, to survive. They accepted the challenge, and I can, too. I rather doubt they liked it very much, though, and in this I am in complete accord.

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the September 13, 2016, meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. at the Inn at Reading kicking off the first meeting of the 20th Campaign of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table. Greg Stull offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance for the 61 members and guests in attendance. Craig reminded everyone to purchase raffle tickets for the evening's book raffle from Gary Hertzog, our new preservation chairman.

Craig shared with those in attendance the death of member Dennis Yerger following our May meeting. Dennis's widow sent a donation in Dennis's memory through his friend, Mike Straus. It was also reported that Ed Ewing had had knee replacement surgery over the summer. We are keeping Ed in our thoughts for a speedy recovery and return with his amazing artifacts.

Vice President Mark Quattrochio gave a report on battlefield lands and leverages available for preservation at the present time. He presented our speaker, Ed Alexander, with a check for \$150 for Pamplin Park in Virginia. Lori Border moved that we send \$100 to the Shenandoah Battlefield Association and \$100 to Old Dominion for land preservation. The motion was seconded by Rodney LaPearl and approved by the membership.

Mark has articles about name tags and preservation later in this newsletter. Ron Emge brought up the possibility of having shirts made honoring our 20th year. Mark Quattrochio offered to look into the details of such an endeavor and report back to the group next month.

Membership

It's time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2016-2017. Please fill out the membership form found on the website, and return it with your check as soon as possible. The deadline for payment is October 11, 2016. If you plan to pay your dues in person at the October meeting, please be sure to fill out **the renewal form and bring it along** with your payment. Dave Sweigert reported that he has received membership renewals from 50 people so far. Please be sure to renew at or before the next meeting in October keeping in mind that membership dues are used solely to fund our speakers.

Programs

Dave Unger reported that all programs are in place for the current campaign. He announced that Jeff Wert will be the October speaker. See details on the website or at the end of the newsletter for information about Jeff's program.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$2515.06 as of September 9, 2016, with \$561.00 ear-marked for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of September's meeting stands at \$1954.06.

Website Changes Announced

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser announced changes to our website. The home page is now labeled "Headquarters." Signups will be done on the Muster page. The External Links section has added more links than were previously available. Those links have been categorized for ease of use. Newsletters for Campaigns 1-6 and 17-19 are now available online.

Two new tabs are in use. The first is called "Old Campgrounds" which is devoted to preservation. There is a new look with pictures, dates of donations, and "thank-you's" for what has already been given in the past. The second tab is entitled "Honored Comrades". This area will be for those who have served the round table and are deserving of special mention. A dialog will begin as to how to go about selecting and honoring those who are chosen. Please email or call Craig with your thoughts and suggestions.

Preservation Corner

The 20th Campaign Season is off to a great start as we raised \$165 from the book raffle for Preservation. Gary Hertzog did a great job for his first meeting running the raffle. Thank You Gary for volunteering to do this. In addition, we received boxes of books that were donated for the raffle. Thank you to all of those who donated books. It is greatly appreciated. Finally, to all of you who purchased tickets or donated money, **thank you** for your continued support.

In addition, I am very pleased to announce the membership has approved us donating \$350 for Preservation. We gave a check in the amount of \$150 to our speaker, Ed Alexander, to be given to Pamplin Park as a donation in his name. The membership also approved sending a \$100 donation to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Association to help preserve 34 acres of the 3rd Winchester Battlefield. Finally, the membership approved donating \$100 to the Civil War Trust for the "Old Dominion" Matching Grant of \$10.80 to \$1 to help preserve 5 Battlefields in Virginia. They are: Williamsburg, Gaines Mill, Reams Station, White Oak Road, and Sailor's Creek. With the \$350 and the Matching Grant from the Trust, our Total Contribution this season to date is \$1330. We are off to a great start.

We will continue to keep you posted in all of the latest preservation news and information on opportunities for us to donate.

Until next time!

Mark Quattrock

Name Tags

We are continuing to take orders from those of you who wish to purchase a new First Defenders Name Tag. You may submit your order by e-mailing me at mquattrock@outlook.com or you can print the order form off our web site and hand it to me at the October meeting. The October meeting will be the last day put in your order before we submit everything to Weikel Sportswear.

Once the order is placed I will let everyone know how much is owed and will start collecting money. Don't delay! If you are interested in a Name Tag please, submit your order now.

Thanks everyone!

Mark Quattrock

Save the Date for AAP

October 27, 2016, is First Defenders date to work at our sites at Gettysburg National Park.

We will meet at Lowes on Rte. 724 around 9ish and carpool to Gettysburg, or you may meet us there. We work on two of the sites, have lunch, and then work on the remaining sites. Tommy's Pizza is a popular spot although we have eaten at other restaurants.

First Defenders has adopted two sites, Gregg's monument located at East Cavalry Field and 18th PA Cavalry located at Big Round Top.

First Defenders is completing the paperwork on two additional sites, WV 1st Cav (Farnsworth) and Benning's Brigade (TX) on South Confederate.

We also work on the 6th PA Cavalry and 8th PA Cavalry sites adopted by Barbara Shafer.

The 6th PA Cavalry fence will need to be painted. Roger Cotterill is the fashionista on dressing for the occasion, but clothing suitable for painting might be your best choice.

If time permits we have done some shopping and would like to visit The Round Barn in the future.

To accomplish this we need YOU to volunteer, please let Don Stripling or Barbara Shafer know of your interest. We may also be able to have a Ranger give a talk about a site or the Park.

The purpose of the Adopt-A-Position (AAP) program is for volunteers to maintain the historic setting of the battlefield.

Volunteers (VIPs) help by doing field maintenance and labor that otherwise would not be completed due to budget and/or staffing restraints.

VIPs donate time and labor in preserving regimental positions, battery locations, or brigade lines. The Park provides equipment and supplies that are needed for the sites. There isn't any monetary involvement by the volunteer. Individuals and/or groups can volunteer to participate. The criteria is a two-year commitment to work a minimum of one day each during the spring and fall program. The individual or contact representative for a group will arrange a date two weeks before the time that a work party will be at the adopted site. All work at the project site must be pre-arranged with the AAP Coordinator. The coordinator at Gettysburg Park is: Alyce Evans at [\(717\) 338-4479](tel:7173384479).

I have been doing Adopt A Position for about 10 years and the list of available sites has been cut in half. This means that sites have been adopted but there are still sites available both Union and Confederate.

If you would like a current list of sites to adopt you can contact contact Alyce Evans at Gettysburg National Military Park. You may prefer to talk to Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995 about getting involved. Barbara can answer questions and address concerns.

FYI: The Civil War across the Pond

If you think that Americans are the only ones interested in Civil War history, think again. Better still, take a look at the newsletter entitled, "Vedette," of the American Civil War Round Table of the United Kingdom. Craig Breneiser found this fascinating organization. You will find their lengthy and engaging newsletter at www.acwrt.org.uk. They also have a Facebook page for their round table.

October Program--Jeff Wert

"Mosby's Rangers"

No single battalion was more feared during the Civil War than the 43rd Battalion of Virginia Cavalry. As one contemporary said, "They had...all the glamour of Robin Hood...all the courage and bravery of the ancient crusaders." Better known as Mosby's Rangers, they were an elite guerilla unit that operated with stunning success in northern Virginia and Maryland from 1863 to the last days of the war. Jeff Wert, and old friend and popular Round Table speaker, has written an exciting account of what may be the most famous command of the Civil War, and will bring that story to the First Defenders.



Jeffery D. Wert is the author of eight previous books on Civil War topics, most recently *Cavalryman of the Lost Cause* and *The Sword of Lincoln*. His articles and essays on the Civil War have appeared in many publications, including *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *American History Illustrated*, and *Blue and Gray*. A former history teacher at Penns Valley High School, he lives in Centre Hall, Pennsylvania, slightly more than one hour from the battlefield at Gettysburg. Jeffery D. Wert is the author of eight previous books on Civil War topics, including *Cavalryman of the Lost Cause*, *Gettysburg- Day Three* and *The Sword of Lincoln*. His articles and essays on the Civil War have appeared in many publications, including *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *American History Illustrated*, and *Blue and Gray*. A retired history teacher from Penns Valley High School, he lives in Centre Hall, Pennsylvania, slightly more than one hour from the battlefield at Gettysburg.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, October 11, 2016 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for October include: Stuffed Chicken with sausage and sage; Homestyle Meatloaf; Potato Crusted Cod with dill cream sauce; or Linguini Forno with fresh grilled vegetables tossed in garlic sauce and pasta. Starch, vegetables, salad, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon Friday, October 7, 2016, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. **This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not.** Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

****PLEASE NOTE: IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU PAY IN THE APPROPRIATE DOLLAR AMOUNT. WE DO NOT HAVE A CHANGE DRAWER. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT \$50 OR \$100 BILLS IN PAYMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



Contact Information

President	Craig Breneiser	Craig.breneiser@gmail.com
Vice President	Mark Quattrock	mquattrock@outlook.com
Newsletter/Recording Secretary	Linda Zeiber	zeibers@comcast.net
Membership	David Sweigert	Davesweig@aol.com
Treasurer	Tim Antosy	bcIU92@hotmail.com
Preservation	Gary Hertzog	ghertzog@verizon.net
Meal Captain	Kathy Little	dklittle@dejazzd.com
Programs	Dave Unger	dsunger@comast.net
Webmaster	Lisa Breneiser	Lisa.Breneiser@gmail.com

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

November 2016



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

James Gordon Bennett, the editor of the New York Herald, walked the middle line during the 1864 election insulting both Democrats and Republicans equally. As far as Bennett was concerned, it didn't matter much who won. "While we have no hopes of Paradise regained with this election," he wrote, "we have no fears of the destruction of the country with the success of either Lincoln or McClellan. Each is a failure..." He believed the choice was between two evils, and he didn't believe that the defeat of one or the other would be the ruin of the country. So wrote John C. Waugh in his *Reelecting Lincoln: The Battle for the 1864 Presidency*.

Bennett was, quite obviously, on the mark with his prediction since the country would survive for the next 152 years. We are now on the cusp of the 58th presidential canvass which, as with the most of the 57 before, is being touted as "the most important election in our history." That may or may not be, but it is certainly unusual if nothing else. Consider...

- When Lincoln and McClellan squared off as Bennett was excoriating them both in 1864, the Negro was not yet a citizen and was certainly not able to cast a ballot. He would not have the opportunity to exercise the franchise for another six years until the 15th Amendment was ratified in 1870.
- It would take another 50 years before women would be granted the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment. The year was 1920, 28 years before Hillary Clinton was born and 96 before she would become the first woman to become a major party candidate.
- 16 presidential contests have passed since a non-politician (Eisenhower) last headed a major party ticket, and it has been since 19 since a true civilian was at the top of the ballot. Wendell Wilkie was the candidate in 1940, six years before the next civilian presidential candidate, Donald Trump, was born.

If the current canvass is not the most important in our national existence, it is almost certainly the most unique. Bennett's acerbic pen would likely still be dripping invective-filled ink at Republicans and Democrats alike, and his 1864 words seem ironically apropos for the campaign now coming (thankfully!) to a climax. What is as important today as it was then, what our Civil War ancestors have bequeathed to all following generations, is the right...I daresay *obligation*...to cast a vote. The victor on November 8th is unlikely to cause the ruin of the nation, but failure to do our duty by exercising our franchise does tear at the national fabric while dishonoring ALL who have sacrificed to afford us this right for 240 years. Vote for the candidate of your choice, BUT VOTE!

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the October 11, 2016, meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Inn at Reading. Greg Stull offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance for the 62 members in attendance.

Vice President Mark Quattrock gave a report on battlefield lands and leverages available for preservation at the present time. These will be discussed in Mark's report later in this newsletter. Mark has an article about preservation later in this newsletter.

Many thanks to our friend Jeff Wert for his fascinating program for October about Mosby's Rangers. We always look forward to Jeff's return visits to the round table.

Membership

It's now past-time to renew your membership for the campaign of 2016-2017. Please fill out the membership form found on the website, and return it with your check as soon as possible if you have not already done so. The deadline for payment was October 11, 2016. Dave Sweigert reported that he has received membership renewals from 80 people so far. Remember that you cannot order a meal without having paid for your membership. If you have not yet taken care of that, send your check to Dave before missing out on another great speaker.

Programs

Dave Unger reported that all programs are in place for the current campaign as well as two for next campaign. See the lineup of programs at the end of the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3730.19 as of October 4, 2016, with \$511.00 ear-marked for preservation which includes a special donation for our friend Dennis Yerger who passed away this past May. The unencumbered balance as of September's meeting stands at \$3219.19.

Preservation Corner

The October meeting saw us taking in \$163 from the book raffle. Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets and supported the raffle. Also, congratulations to all the winners.

The checks for the Civil War Trust and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation have been sent, and we have received some very nice Thank-you letters from both organizations for the donations we made. Also, Jeff Wert gave us a great compliment for supporting the Foundation.

Finally, we received a very generous donation of books from the Civil War Institute to use for our book raffle. Special thanks to Peter Carmichael and the Institute for their donation.

That is all for now. See you next month!

Mark Quattrock

Save the Date for AAP

Barb Shafer announced that October 27, 2016, is the First Defenders date to work at our sites at Gettysburg National Park.

We will meet at Lowes on Rte. 724 around 9ish and carpool to Gettysburg, or you may meet us there. We work on two of the sites, have lunch, and then work on the remaining sites. Tommy's Pizza is a popular spot although we have eaten at other restaurants.

First Defenders has adopted two sites, Gregg's monument located at East Cavalry Field and 18th PA Cavalry located at Big Round Top.

First Defenders is completing the paperwork on two additional sites, WV 1st Cav (Farnsworth) and Benning's Brigade (TX) on South Confederate.

We also work on the 6th PA Cavalry and 8th PA Cavalry sites adopted by Barbara Shafer.

The 6th PA Cavalry fence will need to be painted. Roger Cotterill is the fashionista on dressing for the occasion, but clothing suitable for painting might be your best choice.

If time permits we have done some shopping and would like to visit The Round Barn in the future.

To accomplish this we need YOU to volunteer, please let Don Stripling or Barbara Shafer know of your interest. We may also be able to have a Ranger give a talk about a site or the Park.

The purpose of the Adopt-A-Position (AAP) program is for volunteers to maintain the historic setting of the battlefield.

Volunteers (VIPs) help by doing field maintenance and labor that otherwise would not be completed due to budget and/or staffing restraints.

VIPs donate time and labor in preserving regimental positions, battery locations, or brigade lines. The Park provides equipment and supplies that are needed for the sites. There isn't any monetary involvement by the volunteer. Individuals and/or groups can volunteer to participate. The criteria is a two-year commitment to work a minimum of

one day each during the spring and fall program. The individual or contact representative for a group will arrange a date two weeks before the time that a work party will be at the adopted site. All work at the project site must be pre-arranged with the AAP Coordinator. The coordinator at Gettysburg Park is: Alyce Evans at (717) 338-4479.

I have been doing Adopt A Position for about 10 years and the list of available sites has been cut in half. This means that sites have been adopted but there are still sites available both Union and Confederate.

If you would like a current list of sites to adopt you can contact contact Alyce Evans at Gettysburg National Military Park. You may prefer to talk to Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995 about getting involved. Barbara can answer questions and address concerns.

November Program—Sherri Stull Women Soldiers in the Civil War



The story of the woman soldier has been a long, neglected chapter in our nation's Civil War history. Even today, when thinking back to women of that time period, most individuals envision the woman left behind to tend her husband's farm or business, a laundress following the army, a nurse serving in a hospital, or maybe even the spy gathering intelligence. Few people think of the fairer sex of the Victorian era as a combatant. Together, we will explore military history as it relates to these brave women, discover who these women were, where they came from, why they chose to fight, how they were able to pass themselves off as men, and what happened to some when their identity was revealed. We'll also examine some known, documented cases of women in Civil War combat.

SPEAKERS AND PROGRAM TOPICS FOR FIRST DEFENDERS CWRT 2016-2017

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
11/9/2016	Sherri Stull	Women Soldiers in the Civil War
12/13/2016	Scott Mingus	Second Battle of Winchester
1/10/2017	Bob Shuman	The Burning of Chambersburg
2/14/2017	Paul Kahan	Simon Cameron: Amiable Scoundrel
3/14/2017	Steve French	McNeill's Rangers
4/11/2017	Ed Bearrs	First Defenders
5/9/2017	Ed Bonekemper	Myth of the Lost Cause

Dinner Reservations for the Wednesday, November 9, 2016 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for November include: Cornbread Stuffed Chicken with supreme sauce; Roast Turkey with cornbread stuffing; Seafood Alfredo; or Vegetable Penne with vodka sauce. Starch, vegetables, salad, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon Friday, November 4, 2016, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. **This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not.** Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

****PLEASE NOTE: IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU PAY IN THE APPROPRIATE DOLLAR AMOUNT. WE DO NOT HAVE A CHANGE DRAWER. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT \$50 OR \$100 BILLS IN PAYMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

December 2016



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LONDON- With the recent presidential election in the United States, it seems the American colonies are seriously divided into opposing factions. The impact upon the continent, including the Her Majesty's Empire, has provoked unprecedented concerns within all the leading citizens because of important commercial and political ties now existing between the nations. The future is something of a muddle.

It is November, but is the year 1860 or 2016? What is old is once again new, so the answer is unequivocally "both." Follow...

Opting to join the threatened mass exodus from the U.S. following the recent election (but regardless who won!), Lisa and I spent the post-election week in London. British electronic and print media devote more time reporting and analyzing the rise of Donald Trump and the fall of Hillary Clinton than almost any other domestic or international matter. It is difficult to find any mention of Prime Minister Theresa May or the ongoing Brexit saga, and coverage of protests outside the American embassy mirroring those on the "other side of the pond" are detailed and poignant. European nations are meeting in a hastily-convened session in Brussels to discuss the unanticipated phenomena of a Donald Trump presidency more than two months prior to it becoming reality.

Possibly not since the election of Abraham Lincoln has Europe been as anxious about domestic affairs in America as it is today. Between Lincoln's election and inauguration four months later, seven southern states seceded from the union and created a crisis in the nascent New World republic that would ripple thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean and lap up on the shores of the Old World. Sides were quickly chosen, and European governments generally tilted toward the new Confederacy (even if they were unwilling to do so publicly). The Lincoln government had an international crisis on its hands even before it took office, and the threat of a trans-Atlantic conflict seemed inevitable. Wisely pursuing a course of "one war at a time," Lincoln was able to appease (or, at least, not alienate) European powers even while the South depended on its "King Cotton Diplomacy" to court or cajole support for its cause from over the waters.

It seems somewhat odd that in today's more global worldview the election of an American president should be of such great import on other nations, especially those whose existence pre-dates our own by several thousand years. But, as some commentators and even the locals noted to Lisa and me, the power and reach of the United States is enormous. While President-Elect Trump campaigned on a promise to "make America great again," it is abundantly clear Europeans already stand in awe of what we have become in just 240 years (a blink of an eye by their historical standards!), and look to the future with the same hope and trepidation as we do in the United States. The view from London presents a different perspective of things back home, and one can only hope the sagacity and pragmatism exhibited by Lincoln and his people 150 years ago will again appeal to the better angels of our nature.

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the November 9, 2016, meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. at the Inn at Reading. It is noted that this meeting was held the second Wednesday of November since Tuesday was Election Day. Greg Stull offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance for the 54 members in attendance. Craig informed those in attendance that Ed Ewing continues to recover as well as Ev Binns who also recently had knee replacement surgery. We hope to see both gentlemen soon.

Vice President Mark Quattrochio gave a report on battlefield lands and leverages available for preservation at the present time. He made a motion which was seconded and approved by the membership to donate \$300 to preservation efforts at Gettysburg for 35 acres between Barlow's Knoll and the almshouse. There is a 2:1 leverage for this land. The donation is to be sent in memory of Dennis Yerger who died in May.

Mark will collect money for name tags at the December meeting. He will also have order forms on hand for ordering polo shirts with the First Defenders logo.

Programs

Dave Unger reported that all programs are in place for the current campaign. He announced that Scott Mingus will be the December speaker. Scott will speak about the second battle of Winchester. See details on the website or at the end of the newsletter for information about Scott's program.

Dave is looking for our own round table members to make a presentation next January or February of the 2018 campaign. The program committee will be meeting in January of 2017 so please contact Dave as soon as possible if you are interested in doing this.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3886.52 as of November 2, 2016, with \$674.00 ear-marked for preservation which included a special \$300.00 donation for our deceased member Dennis Yerger.

Membership

Dave Swigert reported that membership currently stands at 83. An email has been sent to those who were members last season and have not rejoined this current campaign. He encourages all members to invite friends and acquaintances who may be interested in being a part of our fine organization.

Adopt-a-Position

Barbara Shafer announced that the plans to work on the maintenance of monuments had to be canceled this past October because of inclement weather. After postponing the original date for a week, we were met with rain a second time. It was decided to wait until spring to try again. Announcements will be made in early spring for those interested in helping this worthy and fun adventure.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone to be sure that a meal confirmation is sent if meals are ordered online. If you do not receive one, your order did not go through. Always give Kathy a call if you have an issue with your reservations. Her number is listed at the end of the newsletter with ordering information and menu choices.

Trips

Joe Schaeffer discussed a possible trip to Gettysburg in April to visit the Lost Avenue. This topic had been proposed as a destination for a field trip last June, but not enough members signed up for it. The nature of future trips will be less formal. Transportation will be decided based on numbers who choose to go. Stay tuned for more details.

Preservation Corner

Our November meeting has come and gone and I am pleased to announce we raised \$190 from our Book Raffle. As always I would like to thank all those who bought tickets and special thanks to those members who gave money as a donation. All of this is truly appreciated.

In addition, the membership approved donating \$500 to the Civil War Trust for the \$2-\$1 matching grant they are running to purchase approx. 35 acres of land in Gettysburg at Barlow's Knoll. Included in the \$500 is \$300 that was donated to the Roundtable by Dennis Yerger. Originally, the intent of the \$300 was to go towards a speaker who would give a presentation on Gettysburg but after talking to Dennis' family, they have graciously agreed to put this money towards this project. Thank You for allowing us to do this. With the \$2-\$1 matching grant, this puts our Total Contribution at \$1000.

We will continue to keep you posted on the latest news and happenings with Preservation. Until next time!

Mark Quattroch

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.

December Program:

"Second Battle of Winchester" featuring author Scott Mingus



In the summer of 1863, as Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia began its inexorable push northward toward Pennsylvania, one significant force stood in the way -- Union Maj. Gen. Milroy's division of the Eighth Army Corps in the vicinity of Berryville. Believing that the enemy was merely a cautious force, the veteran Indiana politician-turned-general chose to stand his ground. A controversial decision put his outnumbered and largely inexperienced division on a path to what most observers considered to be a military disaster. Milroy lost half his force and routed ingloriously from the field. Many of the Northern soldiers who fought at Second Winchester believed their three-day, ultimately unwinnable resistance had kept the Rebels from entering Pennsylvania long enough to allow the Army of the Potomac to arrive and defeat Lee at Gettysburg. Mingus tells the story of these men and the first act of the Campaign.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, December 13, 2016 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for December include: Chicken Mediterranean; Pulled Pork with Fuji grilled apples and cornbread; Stuffed Flounder; or Cheese Manicotti with marinara sauce. Soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon Friday, December 9, 2016, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. **This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not.** Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

****PLEASE NOTE: IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU PAY IN THE APPROPRIATE DOLLAR AMOUNT. WE DO NOT HAVE A CHANGE DRAWER. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT \$50 OR \$100 BILLS IN PAYMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

Speakers and Program Topics for 2016-2017

12/13/2016	Scott Mingus	Second Battle of Winchester
1/10/2017	Bob Shuman	The Burning of Chambersburg
2/14/2017	Paul Kahan	Simon Cameron: Amiable Scoundrel
3/14/2017	Steve French	McNeill's Rangers
4/11/2017	Ed Bearss	To Be Determined
5/9/2017	Ed Bonekamper	Myth of the Lost Cause

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

January 2017



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the advent of a new year only days away, many of us traditionally look back at the year now ending with a wide range of emotions. 2016 has certainly been a wild year; it was widely anticipated the presidential canvass would feature Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton, and no one would have imagined Bernie Sanders being truly competitive or Donald Trump actually winning the election!

152 years ago, many were equally amazed that Abraham Lincoln had even been on the ballot in 1864 or that he could possibly vanquish Union hero George McClellan. After all, no president since Andrew Jackson had won a second term, and Little Mac was the darling of the country, the newspapers and his beloved soldiers.

There must have been as much head-shaking and eye-rolling back then as there is today, with a future mixture rich in promise and hope leavened by generous heapings of fear and dread. There was, after all, much uncertainty both north and south of the Mason-Dixon line when it came to the future.

We know today the past 150 years have been generally positive for the United States. We are one country that has grown into the world leader. But, that evolution has not been without its challenges and suffering; we've experienced the assassinations of four presidents, a Great Depression, World War II and a continuing struggle to define freedom and equality. Yet we have managed to persevere and move forward; can anyone doubt for a moment the impossibility of our 19th Century ancestors accepting even the notion of an African-American president? Regardless of the way you perceive the man about to leave the Executive Mansion, you cannot doubt the historic progress he represents.

We cannot know how future generations will come to view our times, nor can we well imagine the challenges they may face that may dwarf our own. But, with faith in our country, our resources and ourselves, we boldly look forward to the future as we endeavor to continue meeting every challenge while striving to maintain that "more perfect union" envisioned by our forefathers.

To each and every one, a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the December 13, 2016, meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. at the Inn at Reading. Craig offered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance for the 55 members in attendance. Craig informed the membership that Ed Ewing continues to recover as well as Ev Binns who also recently had knee replacement surgery. We hope to see both gentlemen soon.

Vice President Mark Quattrochio gave a report on battlefield lands and leverages available for preservation at the present time. There are details in Mark's report further in the newsletter.

Mark will have forms on hand for ordering polo shirts with the First Defenders logo in January.

Programs

Dave Unger reported that all programs are in place for the current campaign. Dave is looking for our own Round Table members to make a presentation next January or February of the 2018 campaign. The program committee will be meeting in January of 2017 so please contact Dave as soon as possible if you are interested in doing this.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3678.13 as of November 30, 2016. Last month we took in a total of \$190.00 for preservation giving us a present total of \$364.00 for preservation. Our membership stands at 87. The unencumbered balance as of September's meeting stands at \$3314.13.

Membership

Dave Sweigert reported that membership currently stands at 87 but is still well below full-strength. He encourages all members to invite friends and acquaintances who may be interested in being a part of our fine organization.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone to be sure to order meals by noon on the Friday before scheduled meetings. A meal confirmation is sent if meals are ordered online. If you do not receive one, your order did not go through. Always give Kathy a call if you have an issue with your reservations. Her number is listed at the end of the newsletter with ordering information and menu choices.

Trips

Joe Schaeffer discussed a possible trip to Gettysburg in April to visit the Lost Avenue. This topic had been proposed as a destination for a field trip last June, but not enough members signed up for it. The nature of future trips will be less formal. Transportation will be decided based on numbers who choose to go. Stay tuned for more details.

Joe also shared a story about Longfellow's poem which became the basis for the Christmas carol "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day..." If you want to read more about it, check <https://emergingcivilwar.com>.

Preservation Corner

Our December meeting saw us raising \$187 from both the book raffle and donations. Thank You to all those who purchased tickets or chose to make a donation.

There is a huge amount of news this month in the area of Preservation:

First, the Civil War Trust is currently running a Matching Grant of \$10.48-\$1 Matching Grant to help preserve 3 Battlefields in VA. They are: Cedar Mountain, Gaines Mill, and Cold Harbor

Second, the Richmond Times reported an effort being made to preserve the remaining 900 acres of the Malvern Hill Battlefield. A land consortium has agreed with helping to raise the money needed to purchase this.

Third, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation has made an announcement where they are looking to raise money to help purchase Fisher's Hill. There is no matching grants being offered.

Finally, in a Non Civil War preservation effort, the Civil War Trust and the Advanced Institute have agreed for the Trust to purchase 15 acres of the Princeton Battlefield. The Trust is now offering a \$3-\$1 matching grant in an effort to raise \$4M dollars. The land is important because Washington led an attack against a British Brigade.

This is all I have now. Your continued support is important. I will keep everyone posted on further updates.

Until next time, have a Happy Holidays!

Mark Quattrochio

Remembrance Day 2016



If you have not attended Remembrance Day in Gettysburg activities, this is a weekend of events that you might be interested in. It seems that the number of participants in the annual parade grows each year. I have never officially counted, but the number of Confederate units is nearly equal to Union outfits these days. While having lunch before the Saturday parade, I ran into our own Mark Quattrochio and his fellow surgeons at Gettysburg Eddie's. Fortunately, there was no tainted or unripe food being served and there was no hardtack on the menu!

November 19, the anniversary date of the Gettysburg Address, fell on Saturday of Remembrance Day Weekend. The 19th always begins with a ceremony in the cemetery with a notable keynote speaker, a reading of Lincoln's famous address, and a naturalization ceremony for a dozen or so new citizens. Levar Burton was this past November's speaker. The Gettysburg High School Ceremonial band clad in Civil War period uniforms provides music. I find the morning's ceremony moving and always appropriate to the occasion. The parade of soldiers, civilians, cavalry--many on horseback--take the observers back in time for a few hours.

The end of Remembrance Day is signaled by luminaries on each grave in the National Cemetery. This past year the luminaries were canceled due to inclement weather. If you have any questions about the weekend, please do not hesitate to ask. Gettysburg is in our backyard and is most definitely a touchstone for most of us.

Linda Zeiber

January Program

"The Burning of Chambersburg" featuring First Defender Bob Shuman



In the summer of 1864, Confederates visited the south-central Pennsylvania town of Chambersburg for the third time. Dispatched by Lt. General Jubal Early as part of his "Second Valley Campaign," raiders under the command of Brigadier General John McCausland demanded a \$500,000 ransom from the town or they would burn the town. That amount could not be raised, and by the Rebels returned south of the Mason-Dixon Line, much of the town lay in smoldering ashes. In the North, it was considered an infamous crime (for which Early would be accused of war crimes) while Southern partisans hailed it as justice for what they had experienced at the hands of Union armies. Today, like the mythical phoenix, Chambersburg has risen from the ashes and is the seat of Franklin County.

Long-time Round Table member and Chambersburg native Bob Shuman knows as much about this often-overlooked event as anyone alive today, and has spoken on "the burning" before many audiences. An educator by trade, Bob is retired from the Pennsylvania State University where he spent more than a quarter century at the Berks Campus.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, January 10, 2017 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for January include: Greek Stuffed Chicken with Spinach; Honey Roasted Ham; Key West Salmon; or Pasta Carbonara. Soup, starch,

vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon Friday, January 6, 2017, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. **This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not.** Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

****PLEASE NOTE: IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU PAY IN THE APPROPRIATE DOLLAR AMOUNT. WE DO NOT HAVE A CHANGE DRAWER. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT \$50 OR \$100 BILLS IN PAYMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

Speakers and Program Topics for 2016-2017

1/10/2017	Bob Shuman	The Burning of Chambersburg
2/14/2017	Paul Kahan	Simon Cameron: Amiable Scoundrel
3/14/2017	Steve French	McNeill's Rangers
4/11/2017	Ed Bearss	To Be Determined
5/9/2017	Ed Bonekamper	Myth of the Lost Cause

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2017

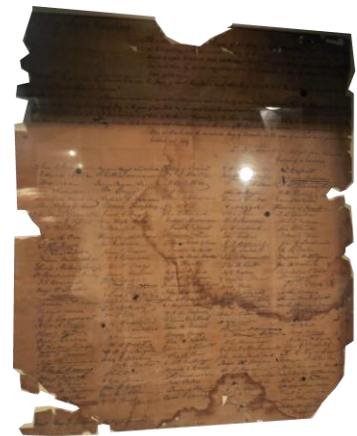


www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

COLUMBIA, S.C.: It occurs to me that throughout the history of the United States...indeed, world history...men have come together to make monumental decisions. Often, these are reduced to a piece of paper...the Magna Charta, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution to name just a few. There can be a great deal of passion surrounding the genesis of such efforts, and it is interesting to contemplate the thoughts that must have been swirling through participants' minds. Am I doing the right thing? What will this mean to my family and friends? How will history see this?

South Carolinians likely knew they were taking a mighty big step when they voted in December of 1860 to secede from the Union. Looking at an original copy of the secession ordinance (see photo, right) here in Columbia, my thoughts turned to what those men were thinking when they put pen to paper to sign that document. Could they fully understand the step they were taking? If they knew three-quarter million men would die in the next five years would they still have signed it? Was it possible to even remotely contemplate 150 years into the future of the nation they thought was being created? What hath man wrought?



Over the past few years, we have often heard about "executive orders." President Obama made frequent use of such orders to carry out his agenda, and the past week has suggested President Trump will not be, indeed is not, adverse to using his pen for similar purpose. Dependant upon one's view of the subject of such executive orders seems to be a reflection on their propriety and whether the signer has exceeded his authority.

Abraham Lincoln signed what may have been one of the earliest executive orders, the Emancipation Proclamation. Of questionable legal standing, Lincoln regarded it as a war measure that fell within his purview as commander-in-chief during a time of rebellion. Yet he also recognized the gravity of his action when he noted, "If my name ever goes into history it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it." At a time when our country is divided to an extent not seen in more than 150 years, one can only hope modern leaders carefully consider how important their signature can be not only now, but to generations yet unborn.

For the Glory,

Craig

Please note: Because of the cancellation of the January 2017 meeting of the Round Table, there is no new business to report. Refer to the January newsletter for the most recent news.

From Mark Quattrock--

Name Tags

Anyone who ordered a name tag, please note that the cost is \$7.70 per tag. Please bring either a check or money order made payable to Mark Quattrock to the February meeting.

Polo Shirts

We are now taking orders for polo shirts with the 20th anniversary logo on them. We are also in the process of adding an order form to the web site. Anyone wishing to order a shirt please, complete the order form and e-mail it to me at mquattrock@outlook.com or bring it to the round table meeting. We will be taking orders until the March meeting after which we will submit everything to Weikel Sportswear. We will also start collecting money at the March meeting.

Mark

February Program

Simon Cameron: Amiable Scoundrel

Simon Cameron rose to become the undisputed political boss of Pennsylvania. In delivering the Keystone State to Abraham Lincoln in 1860, repayment of the political debt led to his appointment as secretary of war. Cameron was one of the nineteenth century's most prominent political figures; however, he left in his wake a series of questionable political and business dealings and, at the age of eighty, even a sex scandal.



Author Paul Kahan will bring this interesting character to life as he reviews the life and times of an era where a man like Cameron could seize control and exert real authority over a successful, well-oiled political machine. A key figure in Union military strategy during the Civil War's crucial first year, Cameron would eventually be sent into a forced resignation. Legend says he was corruption personified, yet no evidence has ever been presented to prove that Cameron was corrupt.

Join us to learn more about Simon Cameron: Amiable Scoundrel.

*Paul Kahan earned a Ph.D. in U.S. history from Temple University where he worked with William W. Cutler, III. Prior to that, Dr. Kahan earned his M.A. in Modern American History & Literature from Drew University and B.A.s in history and English (with minors in medieval/Renaissance studies and music) from Alfred University. In 2008, Dr. Kahan published his first book, *Eastern State Penitentiary: A History*. This book explores the penitentiary's history and is written for a popular audience. In February 2012, Peter Lang published Dr. Kahan's second book, *Seminary of Virtue: The Ideology and Practice of Inmate Reform at Eastern State Penitentiary, 1829-1971*. His third book, *The Homestead Strike: Labor, Violence, and American Industry*, was published by Routledge in late 2013.*

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, February 14, 2017 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for February include: Chicken Saltimbocca; Pork Tenderloin; Shrimp and Flounder Amaretto Almondine; or Cannelloni Florentine-crepe filled with brunoise of vegetable and spinach with bechamel sauce. Soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon Friday, February 10, 2017, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. **This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not.** Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

****PLEASE NOTE: IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU PAY IN THE APPROPRIATE DOLLAR AMOUNT. WE DO NOT HAVE A CHANGE DRAWER. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT \$50 OR \$100 BILLS IN PAYMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

Speakers and Program Topics for 2017

3/14/2017	Steve French	McNeill's Rangers
4/11/2017	Ed Bearss	The First Defenders
5/9/2017	Ed Bonekamper	Myth of the Lost Cause

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

March 2017



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gettysburg- How to reverse the apparent trend of flagging interest in the Civil War and history in general? Such was the conversation recently had with a group of history buffs and tour providers. While there exists no shortage of interesting, vibrant and timely topics in the American history genre, there does seem to be a dearth of people seeking out such opportunities.

In our own little orbit, we've seen a decrease in Round Table membership this year; 88 members, down from 101 during the 19th Campaign. Attendance at our monthly programs is down, too, with an average well under 60 that we need to maintain our standing with the Inn at Reading. (Without desecrating the intent of a poem submitted by Mike Straus for this newsletter, it appears appropriately symbolic.)

More importantly, though, our decreasing strength will impact future programs. As you know, current year dues support next year's speakers. A decrease of 13 members from last year means we will have \$325 less to cover program costs, and that is a just a little more than we need for each program. It was just a few years ago when we chartered a large tour bus for a field trip, but the interest fell to the point where tours had to be cancelled when we could not even fill a mini-bus. It's small comfort to realize it is not just us as professional history tour companies are also having tough times attracting sufficient attendees to hold a program without losing money.

We know our membership is changing, aging and relocating. Time passes and things change. In some instances, even history is often lost to development because people do not know what is in their midst or from just plain apathy because they do not care.

Noted author and historian William C. "Jack" Davis once noted the difficulty in keeping up with history. Just since most of us were in school, another generation or two of history has occurred. What was current events for us is now history for our children and grandchildren, and many consider "Civil War" to be either a rock band or, more likely, a recent superheroes movie.

The future of the First Defenders is in our hands. We will be celebrating our 20th anniversary during the April program with our old friend Ed Bearss, and we have already begun planning our 21st Campaign. But, whether there is a 22nd, 23rd, 24th or 25th... well, the crystal ball is a bit cloudy right now.

Lincoln said "the world will little note or long remember what we say here," and that might be true for us in our own little universe. However, it is up to ALL of us, as an organization and as individuals, to help make certain our friends and families, all generations, take hold of the torch of history and pass it along to others to remember and celebrate "what they did here."

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the February 14, 2017, meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. at the Inn at Reading. Ev Binns, happily returned from knee surgery, offered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance for the 48 members in attendance. Craig asked that we keep Jim Struble in our thoughts since he had hip replacement surgery recently. He also welcomed Mike Straus back from knee surgery.

Vice President Mark Quattrochio gave a report on battlefield lands and leverages available for preservation at the present time. Also, polo shirt orders will be finalized at the March meeting. Email Mark if you are interested and find the order form on our website. He reminded those who ordered name tags that they are on order. Further details are following in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

There has been no change in the treasury because of the cancellation of the January meeting. Tim Antosy reports a total of \$3,563 currently. There is \$551.00 in the preservation account as of this newsletter. We currently have 88 members. This is well below full-strength. Please invite friends and acquaintances to join us.

Programs

Dave Unger reported that we still need a speaker for October 2018 from our membership. Please contact Dave if you can make a presentation. Member Bob Shuman has been rescheduled for December 2017 since bad weather forced the cancellation of the January meeting.

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer reported the details of an informal field trip for April 22, 2017, to tour the Lost Avenue at Gettysburg. Dean Schultz owns the property that provides access to this seldom-visited spot. If you are interested, be at Dean's farm on April 22 at 9 a.m. You are responsible for your own transportation to Gettysburg. Expect a 3.5-4 hour walk. Joe will provide any details that you may need.

Website

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser explained a change in the "reCAPTCHA" portion of the web page which we use to order meals. Internet "robots" were getting through the previous method which was to make sure that only members were placing meal orders. Anyone who needs an explanation of "reCAPTCHA" or "robot", please talk to Lisa who is fluent in computerese.

From Mark Quattrock--
Order Your Polo Shirts Now

The order form is on the web site, and anyone wishing to order can print the order form off the web site and give it to me at the next round table meeting or they can e-mail me at mquattrock@outlook.com with the size and # of shirts they want to order. We will be taking orders up to the March meeting after which we will submit everything to Weikel Sportswear to start the process. We will be collecting money at the April meeting. Don't delay! Place your order now!!

Important Announcement: The CWRT of Eastern PA is presenting **Americans at War**, a conference for the benefit of historic preservation.

This conference is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2017, at the Center at Holiday Inn Lehigh Valley. This is located at 7736 Adrienne Drive, Breinigsville, PA 18031. You may speak to someone regarding this conference at 610-391-1000. Registration and breakfast begin at 7:45 a.m.. One of the many speakers throughout the day is D. Scott Hartwig. The cost is \$50.00 per person which includes breakfast and lunch.

Send your check made out to "CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc." to Edwin Root 2332 Fox Meadow Drive, Allentown, PA 18104. Include your phone number and email address so that you will receive a confirmation.

For the full schedule of events, see Linda Zeiber for a copy of speakers and topics.

Adopt-A-Position

The Spring date to work at our sites at Gettysburg National Park will be announced at our March meeting.

We will meet at Lowes around 9 and carpool to Gettysburg or you may meet us at the first work site. We work on two of the sites have lunch and then work on the remaining sites.

First Defenders has adopted two sites, Gregg's monument located at East Cavalry Field and 18th PA Cavalry located at Big Round Top.

The paperwork on two additional sites, WV 1st Cav (Farnsworth) and Benning's Brigade (TX) on South Confederate, should be completed.

We also work on the 6th PA Cavalry and 8th PA Cavalry sites adopted by Barbara Shafer.

The 6th PA Cavalry fence will need to be painted. Roger Cotterill is the fashionista on dressing for the occasion, but clothing suitable for painting might be your best choice.

We will have six sites to work on. To accomplish this we need YOU to volunteer, please let Don Stripling or Barbara Shafer know of your interest. We may also be able to have a Ranger give a talk about a site or the Park.

The purpose of the Adopt-A-Position (AAP) program is for volunteers to maintain the historic setting of the battlefield.

Volunteers (VIPs) help by doing field maintenance and labor that otherwise would not be completed due to budget and/or staffing restraints.

VIPs donate time and labor in preserving regimental positions, battery locations, or brigade lines. The Park provides equipment and supplies that are needed for the sites. There isn't any monetary involvement by the volunteer. Individuals and/or groups can volunteer to participate. The criteria is a two-year commitment to work a minimum of one day each during the spring and fall program. The individual or contact representative for a group will arrange a date two weeks before the time that a work party will be at the adopted site. All work at the project site must be pre-arranged with the AAP Coordinator. The coordinator at Gettysburg Park is: Randy Hill at (717) 338-4479.

I have been doing Adopt A Position for about 10 years and the list of available sites has been cut in half. This means that sites have been adopted but there are still sites available both Union and Confederate.

If you would like a current list of sites to adopt, contact Randy Hill at Gettysburg National Military Park.

March Program--Steve French

"McNeill's Rangers"

John Hanson "Hanse" McNeill led a small but pesky band of guerillas that operated primarily in the upper West Virginia region from 1862 to 1864. McNeill's Rangers were actually Company E of the 18th Virginia Cavalry, and would raid Union supply lines, disrupt the B&O Railroad and outshine their more illustrious comrades, Mosby's Rangers, by capturing nearly the entire 1st West Virginia Infantry, 60 6th West Virginia Cavalry troopers while bathing nude and TWO Union generals in a midnight raid.

Hanse McNeill would only rise to the rank of captain before being wounded and subsequently captured in the Shenandoah Valley during the autumn of 1864. He would be rescued by his comrades and taken to safety, but his wound proved to be mortal.

McNeill's Rangers were a small command in an area that was something of a backwater, but they made the war real enough for the Union troops stationed in the region during more than two years of active service.



Steve French, a middle school history teacher in Martinsburg, West Virginia, is the author of several Civil War books including Imboden's Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign, for which he received the 2008 Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award and the 2009 Civil War Round Table of Gettysburg Book Award. His most recent book is Rebel Chronicles: Raiders, Scouts, and Train Robbers of the Potomac. French has written over 70 Civil War articles and numerous book reviews that have appeared in such publications as The Washington Times, Gettysburg Magazine and North & South Magazine.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, March 14, 2017 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for March include: Teriyaki Grilled Chicken; Veal Parmesan with pasta; Broiled Tilapia with lemon butter sauce; or Basil Pesto Cheese Tortellini with spinach. Soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon Friday, March 10, 2017, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. **This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not.** Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

****PLEASE NOTE: IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU PAY IN THE APPROPRIATE DOLLAR AMOUNT. WE DO NOT HAVE A CHANGE DRAWER. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT \$50 OR \$100 BILLS IN PAYMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

Speakers and Program Topics for 2017

3/14/2017	Steve French	McNeill's Rangers
4/11/2017	Ed Bearss	The First Defenders
5/9/2017	Ed Bonekemper	Myth of the Lost Cause

Mike Straus responded to my request for one of his contributions to the newsletter. He forwarded the following poem. Thanks, Mike! This poem touches our hearts and reminds us of the personal price paid by so many.

Roll Call

by Nathaniel Graham Shepherd {1834-1888}

"Corporal Green!" the Orderly cried;
"Here" was the answer loud and clear,
From the lips of a soldier who stood near-
And "Here" was the word the next implied.

"Cyrus Drew"- then a silence fell;
This time no answer followed the call;
Only his ear-man had seen him fall:
Killed or wounded- he could not tell.

There they stood in the failing light,
These men of battle, with grave, dark looks,
As plain to read as open books,
While slowly gathered the shades of night.

The fern on the hillsides was splashed with blood,
And down in the corn, where the poppies grew,
Were redder stains than the poppies knew,
And crimson-dyed was the river's flood.

For the foe had crossed from the other side,
That day, in the face of a murderous fire
That swept them down in terrible ire;
And their life- blood went to color the tide.

"Herbert Cline"- At the call there came
Two stalwart soldiers into the line,
Bearing between them this Herbert Cline,
Wounded and bleeding, to answer his name.

"Ezra Kerr"- and a voice answered "Here!"
"Hiram Kerr!"- but no man replied.
They were brothers, those two; the sad wind sighed,
And a shudder crept through the cornfield near.

"Ephraim Deane!"- then a soldier spoke:
"Deane carried our regiment's colors," he said.
"When our ensign was shot; I left him dead,
Just after the enemy wavered and broke.

"Close to the roadside there his body lies;
I paused a moment and gave him drink;
He murmured his mother's name, I think,
And Death came with it and closed his eyes.

'Twas a victory, yes; but it cost us dear;
For that company's roll, when called at night,
Of a hundred men who went into the fight,
Numbered but twenty that answered "Here!"

Civil War Quotations/ In the Words of the Commanders by Peter G. Tsouras

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

April 2017



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was on the evening of April 6th, 1862 following a hard day's battle on the banks of the Tennessee River that William Tecumseh Sherman found the commander of the Union Army, Ulysses S. Grant, and sighed, "Well, we've had the Devil's own day of it, haven't we?" There, in the pouring rain, the unflappable Grant simply replied, "Yes. Lick 'em tomorrow though."

It seems the Round Table has "had the Devil's own" year during our "China Anniversary Jubilee." We had a great start last fall with terrific programs and speakers throughout the waning months of 2016. As the New Year dawned, though, we seem to have run into some shoal water. The weather prognosticators had suggested this would be a hard winter although it really has been pretty mild (with some 60-70 degree temperatures in late February!). But, it has been hard on the First Defenders as our January and March meetings fell to inclement winter weather, and our February attendance dropped significantly in what seems to be a worrisome trend. True, our enlistments dipped by 12% for this campaign, but our program attendance has fallen by more than 25% from last year.

Eternal optimism may suggest our best years are yet to come. There is so much more to explore in Civil War history that generations unborn will melt away before the well runs dry. But, it will take all of us to rededicate ourselves to the reasons we became First Defenders by continuing to support our monthly programs, by "drafting" like-minded friends to join us and, perhaps most importantly, by providing the Round Table officers with your thoughts, ideas, concerns and suggestions. Whether it is the range of program topics, the quality of speakers, dining accommodations, meal selections or anything else, we need YOU to help keep the First Defenders on its continuing march toward history.

Our April 11th "Evening with Ed" is a perfect time to get back in formation and move forward. With everyone's enthusiastic support and *esprit de corps*, we can "lick 'em tomorrow" and for years to come!

For the Glory!

Craig

Round Table Business

Please note: Because of the cancellation of the March 2017 meeting of the Round table, there is no new business to report. Refer to the March newsletter for the most recent news.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance of \$3,506.59 as of March 6, 2017. Last month we took in a total of \$128.00 for preservation giving us a present total of \$679.00 for preservation. Our membership still stands at 88. The unencumbered balance as of March's meeting stands at \$2827.60.

From Mark Quattrock--

Polo Shirts

There is still time to place an order for the 20th Anniversary Polo Shirts. I will be taking orders in April up to the April Meeting. If you wish to place an order please, either e-mail me at mquattrock@outlook.com with the number of shirts you wish to order and your shirt size. Please, include in the Subject Line of your e-mail **Polo Shirt**. The other way is by printing out the order form on our web site and handing it to me at the April Meeting. With the March Meeting having been cancelled, I am pushing back collecting the money from those of you who ordered until the May Meeting and will include details on how much to pay in the May Newsletter.

Mercy Street

Hi everyone! Season 2 of the PBS series Mercy Street has ended I have some very sad news to announce regarding the future of the series. An announcement was made by PBS that due to issues regarding funding they have **cancelled** Mercy Street. This is in part due to having lost a major grant used to fund production of the series and the likelihood that PBS will lose funding from the Federal Government used to operate and stay on the air. Right now the only way this series could continue is if another network decided to pick up the series. I will keep all of you updated as more news comes out.

Preservation Corner

Hope all of you are well and survived the snow we had in March. A lot is happening in the realm of Preservation since my last article I wrote. Here are some updates: First, Civil War Trust is currently offering 5 Matching Grants. They are:

- **Brandy Station-** This is the newest one that recently came out where the Trust is trying to save two key parts of the Battlefield. The first is Hansbrough Ridge (174 acres the Trust is trying to save) and Fleetwood Hill (70 acres the Trust is trying to save) of the Hill. The Match is **\$6.50 to \$1.**

- **Tennessee**-The Trust is looking to try and save 63 acres of land pertaining to Fort Donelson and Parker's Cross Roads. The Match for this is **\$5.78 to \$1**
- **Virginia and West Virginia**-The Trust is looking to save 243 acres at 4 sites. They are: Cedar Creek and New Market Heights in Virginia and Harpers Ferry and Greenbrier River in West Virginia. The Match is **\$14.96 to \$1**
- **Virginia**-The Trust is trying to save 343 acres at Gaines Mill, Cedar Mountain, and Cold Harbor. The Match for this is **\$10.48 to \$1**
- **Mississippi**-The Trust is trying to save 434 acres at Champion Hill, Brice's Cross Roads, and Port Gibson. The Match for this is **\$6.20 to \$1**

Second, is in regards to Camp Letterman in Gettysburg. A German company called Lidl which is a Supermarket chain is looking to build a supermarket on a large portion of what is left of Camp Letterman. While plans are moving forward to build on the site the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association is currently meeting with the Attorneys for the company to work out a deal where a portion of what is left of the site is saved. I will keep you updated on the progress of the talks.

As always, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who have supported the book raffle either by buying tickets or making donations of books and other items to be used for the raffle. I would also, like to thank all of those who made a monetary donation towards Preservation. All of this is truly appreciated and thank you for all of your support.

Until next time. See all of you in April.

Sincerely,

Mark Quattrock

Important Announcement: The CWRT of Eastern PA is presenting **Americans at War**, a conference for the benefit of historic preservation.

This conference is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2017, at the Center at Holiday Inn Lehigh Valley. This is located at 7736 Adrienne Drive, Breinigsville, PA 18031. You may speak to someone regarding this conference at 610-391-1000. Registration and breakfast begin at 7:45 a.m.. One of the many speakers throughout the day is D. Scott Hartwig. The cost is \$50.00 per person which includes breakfast and lunch.

Send your check made out to "CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc." to Edwin Root 2332 Fox Meadow Drive, Allentown, PA 18104. Include your phone number and email address so that you will receive a confirmation.

For the full schedule of events, see Linda Zeiber for a copy of speakers and topics.

Adopt-A-Position from Barbara Shafer

The Spring date to work at our sites at Gettysburg National Park is Thursday, May 4.

We will meet at Lowes around 9 and carpool to Gettysburg or you may meet us at the first work site. We work on two of the sites have lunch and then work on the remaining sites.

First Defenders has adopted two sites, Gregg's monument located at East Cavalry Field and 18th PA Cavalry located at Big Round Top.

The paperwork on two additional sites, WV 1st Cav (Farnsworth) and Benning's Brigade (TX) on South Confederate, should be completed.

We also work on the 6th PA Cavalry and 8th PA Cavalry sites adopted by Barbara Shafer.

The 6th PA Cavalry fence will need to be painted. Roger Cotterill is the fashionista on dressing for the occasion, but clothing suitable for painting might be your best choice.

We will have six sites to work on. To accomplish this we need YOU to volunteer, please let Don Stripling or Barbara Shafer know of your interest. We may also be able to have a Ranger give a talk about a site or the Park.

The purpose of the Adopt-A-Position (AAP) program is for volunteers to maintain the historic setting of the battlefield.

Volunteers (VIPs) help by doing field maintenance and labor that otherwise would not be completed due to budget and/or staffing restraints.

VIPs donate time and labor in preserving regimental positions, battery locations, or brigade lines. The Park provides equipment and supplies that are needed for the sites. There isn't any monetary involvement by the volunteer. Individuals and/or groups can volunteer to participate. The criteria is a two-year commitment to work a minimum of one day each during the spring and fall program. The individual or contact representative for a group will arrange a date two weeks before the time that a work party will be at the adopted site. All work at the project site must be pre-arranged with the AAP Coordinator. The coordinator at Gettysburg Park is: Randy Hill at (717) 338-4479

I have been doing Adopt A Position for about 10 years and the list of available sites has been cut in half. This means that sites have been adopted but there are still sites available both Union and Confederate.

If you would like a current list of sites to adopt you can contact contact Randy Hill at Gettysburg National Military Park.

April Program

"An Evening with Ed, the 'First Defenders' & More"

It is difficult to find a more appropriate way to officially celebrate the 20th birthday of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table than by spending it with our old friend, Ed Bearss, talking about...what else... the First Defenders! Back for his annual spring appearance is the redoubtable Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service and our annual "Evening with Ed."



Only two months shy of his 94th birthday, Ed has promised a never-before-heard program on the heady April days 156 years ago when young men from Berks County and surrounding environs became the first uniformed military troops to rush to the nation's capital to protect it from what seemed an imminent threat from just across the Potomac River in Virginia and seemingly hostile intentions from the eastern Maryland area. Those raw militia troops buoyed the spirits of the nascent Lincoln Administration that faced the ignominy of being chased from the seat of government by a rebellion only days old. These men would forever be hailed as the "First Defenders" of the Union.

Their story is well-known to most of the modern-day First Defenders who honor them with our Round Table, but Ed is certain to bring a new take on those early days of confusion and glory. And, he may also be ready to offer up some additional nuggets of Civil War history that make him truly a living legend!

Hiram Ulysses S. Grant

It seems that man's destiny in this world is quite as much a mystery as it is likely to be in the next. I never thought of acquiring rank in the profession I was educated for; yet it came with two grades higher prefixed to the rank of General officer for me. I certainly never had either ambition or taste for political life; yet I was twice President of the United States. If anyone had suggested the idea of my becoming an author, as they frequently did, I was not sure whether they were making sport of me or not. I have now written a book which is in the hands of the manufacturers, I ask you to keep these notes very private lest I become an authority on the treatment of diseases, I have already too many trades to be proficient at any.

Excerpted from **GRANT**

Page 628 by
Jean Edward Smith

Submitted by Mike Straus, Loyal
Contributor

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, April 11, 2017 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for April include: Grilled breast of chicken, asparagus, mushrooms, cheese sauce; Sliced top round of beef; Haddock with butter crumb top; OR Eggplant parmigiana, fettuccini, marinara sauce. Salad, soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon Friday, April 7, 2017, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. **This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not.** Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

****PLEASE NOTE: IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU PAY IN THE APPROPRIATE DOLLAR AMOUNT. WE DO NOT HAVE A CHANGE DRAWER. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT \$50 OR \$100 BILLS IN PAYMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

Speakers and Program Topics for 2017

5/9/2017

Ed Bonekamper

Myth of the Lost Cause

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

May 2017



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this message, news reports from New Orleans are announcing the first of four Civil War monuments has been removed. Known as the Liberty (or Liberty Place) Monument, it actually commemorates the "Battle of Liberty Place," a Reconstruction-era civil disturbance focusing on white supremacy in 1874 between the Crescent City White League and the New Orleans Metropolitan Police. The White League prevailed in the affair, although some of its members died during the violence; the 35-foot shaft was erected to their memory 18 years later.

While such a monument is on the very fringe of Civil War iconography (and, arguably, is well-deserving of a place in history's dustbin), the next ones slated for removal honor Jefferson Davis, Louisiana native son P.G.T. Beauregard and Robert E. Lee, each of whom has a clear nexus to the events of 1861-1865. Lee, especially, has enjoyed a century-and-a-half reputation bordering on sainthood, but has more recently fallen into politically-correct disrepute.

Arguments on both sides of the question have relevance. Remembering a time of revolution and treason with the undercurrents of human bondage is odious to some, while the noble, earnestly-held beliefs supported by the science and theology of the time are inspiring to others. Once focused almost exclusively on the Confederate battle flag, the fight is now carried to bronze and granite and bricks and mortar.

Philosopher, essayist, poet and novelist George Santayana noted more than a century ago that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." We presently live in a time where we are divided as a nation in a manner unseen since 1860. It does not matter who is "right;" rather a failure to remember and understand our mid-nineteenth century cataclysm could lead us to repeat it (with far greater consequences than those experienced by our ancestors!).

It is telling of the times that the Liberty Monument removal was accomplished in the dead of night reportedly by crews wearing flak jackets and helmets, driving trucks with no license plates and under heavy police security. Davis, Beauregard and Lee appear likely to suffer similar ignominy in the coming days. Whether we should honor or disparage these men is a matter of perspective; however, is it not preferable to gaze upon their likenesses, as patriots or traitors, and reflect on the terrible cost and legacy of the Civil War while resolving to ensure "never again" in America? If so, Robert E. Lee and his bronzed and marbled peers still articulate a warning to us that should not be silenced.

For the Glory!

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the April meeting to order at 6:17 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on April 11, 2017. Greg Stull offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance for the 69 members and guests present. Following dinner and a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" for our honored friend, guest and speaker, Ed Bearss. Craig led a brief business meeting. Introduction of guests was next on the agenda along with a sad note of the death of member Ron Emge's wife.

Craig reminded everyone of the election of officers to be held at the May meeting. Everyone is encouraged to consider taking an office and participate in the election. We were informed that President Trump donated his first paycheck to the National Park Service for battlefield preservation. This is great news for all of us since we pride ourselves in preserving battlefield lands.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance of \$3,531.60 as of March 29, 2017. Last month there was \$679.00 available for preservation. Our membership still stands at 88. The unencumbered balance as of April's meeting stands at \$2852.60.

Preservation

Mark Quattrochio reported that Ed Bearss was declining his speaker's fee and asked that the \$250.00 be donated to land preservation at Brandy Station where there is currently at matching grant leverage of 6:1. Mark shared the news that buildings at Antietam where the 12th Corps under Mansfield fought have been razed. He also explained that the GBPA is still in negotiations with a German grocery store chain attempting to save 17 acres of Camp Letterman. The store chain has already purchased 100 acres that had been the site of the hospital following the battle at Gettysburg.

It also seems that a new attempt at building a casino in Gettysburg is on the forefront again. The issue is currently in the hands of the zoning board and has been put on hold.

Mark will collect money for polo shirts at the May meeting as well as any money still owed for name tags.

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer shared information about George Durrell and his battery which is familiar to many Berks countians. Judith Simon donated a large collection of artifacts belonging to Durrell to the Berks County History Center recently. Judith and her husband both belonged to the round table before retiring to Elizabethtown, Lancaster County.

Joe also reviewed the details of the April 22nd 'jaunt' to Gettysburg where Wally Heimbach is leading a tour of the Lost Avenue formerly known as Neill Avenue. It is located on property owned by Dean Schultz at 1621 Baltimore Pike.

Programs

Dave Unger reported that most of next year's speakers are now in place. The membership is currently 88 which is a somewhat under our usual strength. Speakers' fees are paid through memberships so we hope to increase our numbers in the new campaign this September.

AAP

Barbara Shafer reminds everyone for the final time that Adopt-A-Position volunteers will be meeting on Thursday, May 5, 2017, at the parking lot at Lowe's on Route 724 at 9 a.m. to travel to Gettysburg to maintenance "our" adopted monuments. If you would like to join the group and have never done so, contact Don Stripling or Barbara for additional details. The day always involves more fun than work; it's Gettysburg after all!

Preservation Corner

It is great to see everyone at the April Roundtable Meeting. It was great to see Ed Bearss and have him talk about the First Defenders. I would like to thank all of you who bought raffle tickets or made a donation for Preservation. Because of you, we managed to raise \$183 for the Preservation Fund.

In appreciation for Ed coming to present and in keeping with tradition we are donating \$250 to the Civil War Trust in Ed's name. In addition, we are putting this towards the \$6.30 to \$1 Matching Grant for Brandy Station. With the Matching Grant, this makes our total donation at \$1575.

Until next time! See you in May!!

Mark Quattrock

A Final Word for the Final Newsletter

--from Mike Straus (Where does he find this stuff?!)

Methodist Cemetery St. Louis, Missouri

Here lize a stranger braiv,
Who died while fightin' the Suthern Confederacy to save
Piece to his dust.
Braive Suthern friend
From iland 10
You reached a Glory us end.
We plase these flowrs above the stranger's hed,
In honor of the shiverlus ded.
Sweet spirit rest in Heven
Ther'l be know Yankis there.

Midshipman in Gray
Page #47
James Morris Morgan

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



May Program

"Myths of the Lost Cause"

In the spring of 1865, most Confederates accepted the loss of the "Second War for American Independence." Within a decade, however, the "Lost Cause" was born in an effort to enoble the sacrifices made and the defeat of the South. There are seven essential components to the Lost Cause dogma: that slavery was a benevolent, dying institution; states' rights, not slavery, led to the conflict; the overwhelming odds against the Confederacy ensured its defeat; Robert E. Lee was one of the greatest military leaders in history; James Longstreet was personally responsible for the Confederate loss at Gettysburg, and, by extension, the war itself; Ulysses S. Grant was an incompetent butcher who could only win with brutality and superior numbers; and, the North won by waging an unprecedented "total war" against the South.



Not so fast says Edward Bonekemper. He has written a balanced, well-researched and compelling refutation of the Confederate Lost Cause catechism, and he will present his arguments to the First Defenders at the May program. Bonekemper's conclusions will have original Lost Cause warriors Jubal Early and William Nelson Pendleton spinning in their graves, and 20th Century apologists like Douglas Southall Freeman and Shelby Foote would have been very uncomfortable under this spotlight!

Edward Bonekemper is a lecturer in military history at Muhlenberg College. He earned a B.A. cum laude in American history from Muhlenberg College, an M.A. in American history from Old Dominion University, and a J.D. from Yale Law School. His prior Civil War books include Lincoln and Grant, Grant and Lee, McClellan and Failure, Incompetence and Worse, A Victor, Not a Butcher, and How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War. His latest book is titled The Myth of the Lost Cause.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, May 9, 2017 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for May include: Hawaiian Chicken; Stuffed boneless Pork Chop with pan gravy; Teriyaki Shrimp Skewers over rice; OR Rigatoni with zesty vegetable marinara sauce. Salad, soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon Friday, May 5, 2017, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

***IMPORTANT NOTE* Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.**

****PLEASE NOTE: IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU PAY IN THE APPROPRIATE DOLLAR AMOUNT. WE DO NOT HAVE A CHANGE DRAWER. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT \$50 OR \$100 BILLS IN PAYMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**