

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2021 - The 25th Campaign



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

Another campaign season is about to open. Like our forbears in the Civil War armies, we look forward to this with a quixotic mix of hope, excitement, trepidation and, perhaps, some sadness. For, as we look around our regiment, we smile to see old comrades and some "fresh fish," but also somberly note the "vacant chair" once occupied by friends who are no longer with us. And, we realize we are fewer than we once were.

As the veteran armies knew though, there would be more to do in the coming campaign. We know there is more for us to do in our coming campaign as we seek to learn more and better understand their sacrifices, North and South, to make this country achieve a greater potential. While they approached the coming fury with bullets and swords, we forge ahead in a quest for knowledge to combat the "history apathy" and misinformation that today calls into question the greatness of the American story. There is, to be sure, more that can be learned and understood, and voices long silenced can add color to the vivid tapestry that is the United States.

Too, we will proceed with this campaign facing a foe not unlike Forrest's cavalry: cunning, tough and not to be dismissed out of hand. The First Defenders approached the pandemic last year in an inclusive manner that allowed us to be together or to participate from home; while we had hoped for an end to COVID, the "D Variant" appears to be an even more wily enemy to face. And, we will continue to do just that by marshalling the talent and technology to ensure our Silver Anniversary Campaign will be our best yet!

To all of our veterans and our new recruits, join us to make the history come alive as we embark on Campaign 25!

Craig

Round Table Business

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table met on May 11, 2021, at Giannotti's Country Manor. Twenty-seven members were present when President Craig Breneiser called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m. A touching prayer originally delivered by the chaplain of the 1st Tennessee Regiment was offered by Ev Binns followed by President Breneiser leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Dinner was then served.

At 7:45 p.m., the evening's presenter, Tom Huntingdon began his program, "Searching for George Gordan Meade," virtually. Seven additional members joined the program online. A business meeting followed the program.

The location of next season's meetings has not been decided at this point. If you have an ideas or suggestions, contact Craig to discuss this issue.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3,671.75 as of May 11, 2021. The Preservation Fund stands at \$305.00 plus \$150.00 for a special preservation project giving us an unencumbered total of \$3,366.75 in our treasury. Our membership stands at 56 after picking up two new members.

Preservation

Mark Quattrock announced battlefield leverages currently available. The American Battlefield Trust was offering \$12.87: \$1 for land near Culp's Hill at Gettysburg as well as at Bristoe Station.

The Shenandoah Valley Foundation was offering \$50: \$1 for land available at Second Winchester. Mark suggested that we take advantage of these generous offers by sending \$150 to each association. It was moved and seconded and approved by the membership.

Book Raffle News

Gary Hertzog sold raffle tickets and presented 7 books for ticket holders to win. We had a good money-raising campaign despite all of the roadblocks caused by Covid. We look forward to even more battlefield acreage to preserve beginning in the fall.

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer announced that the next jaunt will be held on the first Saturday in November. We will travel to East Cemetery Hill where Charlie Fennell will be our guide. The following jaunt will be a trip to Culp's Hill where rehabilitation is currently being done by the Park Service at Gettysburg. Dates and times will be determined.

Programs

Former president Joe Schaeffer has taken over "programs" from Dave Unger. We thanked Dave for his service and thank Joe for taking on this added responsibility. He reported that most of the programs for next season have been contracted. Chris Mackowski will be the speaker for the September meeting opening our 25th campaign. Chris will definitely be "in person" for the meeting.

Officers for the 25th Campaign

All of last campaign's officers will remain for the new season except for Joe Schaeffer replacing Dave Unger in the "Programs" position.

President: Craig Breneiser
Vice President: Mark Quattrocks
Treasurer: Tim Antosy
Secretary: Linda Zeiber
Preservation: Mark Quattrocks
Programs: Joe Schaeffer
Book Raffle: Gary Hertzog
Meal Captain: Kathy Little
Web Master: Lisa Breneiser

Member Information

Long-time member Roger Cotterill has been having ongoing health issues for a while. Denton Schuker recently spoke with Roger and reported that he is finally feeling better. He has put on some weight and is feeling stronger. The following is his contact information:

Roger Cotterill
The Providence Place, Apt. 326
149 South Hunter Highway
Drums, PA 18222
Home phone: 570-708-2689
Cell phone: 570-956-1666
The phone numbers were incorrect in the May newsletter.

We were all saddened to learn of the death of member Larry Hummel. Larry's daughter Heidi is a member of the round table as well and our deep sympathy is extended to her. We will miss Larry.

Recently, a woman contacted Craig Breneiser to see if anyone would be interested in having 171 back issues of *Civil War Times Illustrated*. The periodicals are bound. Contact President Breneiser if you are interested.

NOTICE

Our collection of donated books is OVERFLOWING, and we need your help...

- **Regrettably, we will accept no donations of books until further notice**
- **Check out the "Book Shelf" tab on the website where you will find a huge selection of volumes available for purchase. Information is provided explaining how you can pick up books for a low, low price. As always, proceeds will go to preservation.**
- **Beginning in October, books available for raffle will be posted in the newsletter. Even if you attend a program virtually or need to miss an event, there will be an opportunity for you to contribute to our Preservation Book Raffle. Look for more details next month!**

September Program

"I am too late." - Joe Johnston & the Battle of Jackson

featuring Chris Mackowski

"I am too late," Joe Johnston declared as soon as he set foot in the Mississippi capital of Jackson—a city he'd been sent to defend under direct orders from Confederate President Jefferson Davis, a native Mississippian. Ulysses S. Grant's army was lurking somewhere in the state's interior with an eye on a strike toward the river citadel of Vicksburg, but Jackson—the state's commercial, transportation, and political hub—would suddenly become a tempting target with Johnston in town. Often overlooked in the larger sweep of the Vicksburg Campaign, the May 14, 1863, the battle of Jackson, Mississippi, carried enormous consequences for both army commanders.



Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is a professor of journalism and mass



communication at St. Bonaventure University and historian-in-residence at Stevenson Ridge, a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield. He also volunteers at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he still gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania), as well as at the

building where Stonewall Jackson died. Chris is co-founder of Emerging Civil War,

and has authored, co-authored or edited numerous Civil War books. A popular and much-sought speaker, Chris has been the lead-off presenter for the First Defenders for the past four campaigns.

Coming Silver Anniversary Campaign Programs

Date	Speaker	Program
12 OCT 2021	Kevin Pawlak	<i>Prelude to Gettysburg: the Cavalry Battles of Aldie, Middleburg & Upperville</i>
9 NOV 2021	Hallie Vaughn	<i>Dr. Mary Edwards Walker - A Living History Portrayal</i>
14 DEC 2021	Chris Army	<i>Meade's Pipe Creek Line</i>
11 JAN 2022	Rick Schaus	<i>Lee is Trapped - Williamsport</i>
8 FEB 2022	Dave Fox	<i>Henry Washington Sawyer - Cape May's Civil War Hero</i>
8 MAR 2022	Charlie Fennell	<i>Greene's Brigade - Saviors of Culp's Hill</i>
12 APR 2022	John Schildt	<i>The Hospitals of Antietam</i>
10 MAY 2022	**To Be Announced**	

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021
Meeting & Program:

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for September are:

- Grilled chicken with rice
- Broiled haddock
- Eggplant parmesan

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or 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 Sept. 10, 2021, 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 Giannotti's, 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 Round Table 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.**

! Please Note !

As we all know, the cost of food has increased for EVERYONE over the past year. Giannotti's is no exception, and our meal cost has necessarily been raised to \$29.00 beginning with our September dinner meeting.



Our 25th Campaign!

FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE MEMBERSHIP FORM 2021-2022

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

☐

I would like to have Civil War-related emails announcements received by the Round Table forwarded to me (Opt out any time by notifying the Webmaster.)

Annual Membership fee of \$25 is due by October 12, 2021.

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

**Lori Border
477 Chalfont Place
Reading, PA 19606**

(Or pay in person at the September or October dinner meeting!)

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

October 2021



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

mon·u·ment: /'mänyəmənt/ *noun* a statue, building, or other structure erected to commemorate a famous or notable person or event

So, based on this dictionary definition, should we be surprised and, I daresay offended, if a desire to commemorate "a famous or notable person" should change over time and as such person recedes into memory or is overtaken by a new way of thinking? Germany has disposed of virtually all vestiges of the Third Reich and Russia has similarly removed many icons of its USSR days. Is it time for our Confederate monumentation to also fade from the scene?

There stands in mid-town (!) Andersonville at the intersection of East Church and South Oglethorpe Streets a monument to a man who was convicted of being a war criminal. Henry Wirz was the notorious (some say "beleaguered") commandant of Camp Sumter where two of my ancestors spent time as guests of the Confederate government and where one remains in eternal sleep since 1864. According to modern dicta, I should be righteously indignant and demand the removal of this abomination.

Perhaps, though, it is better we should re-think the subjects of such monuments. While it may be (past) time to commit Lost Cause dogma to the "picklocks of biographers," there is still much we can learn from and about the subjects of monuments. Robert E. Lee and his lieutenants may not be quite as noble when viewed through a 21st century prism, but they are important threads in the American fabric. There is much they can yet tell us, some good, some not so good, that is important to how we have developed and continue to develop as a nation and as individuals. Taking them out of public view makes such an opportunity more difficult and much less likely.

Henry Wirz had an impact on me 90 years before I was born. Other than his monument being something of a traffic hazard, I prefer to learn more about him and his influence on my life than seeing his monument relegated to old photographs. His story, and those of others not yet gone, can speak to us still if only we listen.

Craig

Round Table Business

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table met on September 14, 2021, at Giannotti's Country Manor. Thirty members were present when President Craig Breneiser called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. Craig introduced himself and called on our members to introduce our guests, David Langdon, Dave Voight and John DeCollo, who have joined as new members. He also announced that due to the continuing pandemic, the meetings would continue to be held in a hybrid format of in-person and virtual. The prayer was offered by Ev Binns followed by President Breneiser leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Dinner was then served.

At 8:00 p.m., the evening's presenter, Chris Mackowski began his program, "I am too late – Joe Johnston & The Battle of Jackson", in-person. Seven additional members joined the program online.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3,229.16 as of September 14, 2021. The Preservation Fund stands at \$112.00 plus \$150.00 for a special preservation project giving us an unencumbered total of \$2,967.16 in our treasury.

Preservation

Our September speaker, Chris Mackowski is not only Editor and Co-Founder of Emerging Civil War he is also Vice President of Central Virginia Battlefield Trust. This is an organization that has done a lot to preserve the Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Battlefields. Thank you and the CVBT for all you have done with preserving these battlefields.

With the money raised this month we made two donations. The first donation is to the American Battlefield Trust in the amount of \$100 for their \$28-1 Matching Grant for Gettysburg and Second Winchester. The Trust is looking to save 4 acres of the battlefield from East Cemetery Hill along the Baltimore Pike up to Stevens Knoll. This parcel includes the McKnight House.

The second donation was to the Battle of Franklin Trust in the amount of \$100 to help the Trust with managing Rippavilla. Rippavilla was General John Bell Hood's Headquarters during the Battle of Spring Hill. With both the donation for the American Battlefield Trust and the Battle of Franklin Trust our total contribution this season to date is \$2900. Our season is off to a great start thanks to all of you.

Book Raffle News

We're off and running with our 25th campaign and anniversary of the First Defender's Civil War Roundtable. It was a great start as we collected \$123 dollars with the monthly raffle, book sales and some donations. We continue to make a difference with our efforts to help preserve our Civil War history.

Starting in October, we will list the upcoming books for the raffle in our newsletter. We are trying to reach out to our virtual members so they can also participate in the raffle.

The October selections are as follows:

1. RETURN to BULL RUN (The Campaign & Battle of 2nd Manassas) by John J. Hennessy
2. NO BETTER PLACE TO DIE (The Battle of Stones River) by Peter Cozzens

3. GENERAL JAMES LONGSTREET (The Confederacy's Most Controversial Soldier) by Jeffrey D. Wert
4. LINCOLN AS I KNEW HIM (A Collected Biography) by Harold Holzer
5. ALL THAT MAKES A MAN (Love & Ambition in the Civil War South) by Stephen W. Berry II
6. HARVARD'S CIVIL WAR (A History of the 20th Massachusetts Inf.) by Richard F. Miller
7. A BROTHERHOOD OF VALOR (The Common Soldiers of the Stonewall Brig. & the Iron Brig.) by Jeffrey D. Wert
8. THE BLUE AND THE GRAY by Thomas B. Allen

We ask that you make your purchase of tickets in \$5 (7 tickets) increments. Please send a check made payable to the First Defenders Civil War Round Table. With your check, please send a list of the books in the order of your preference so that if your 1st selection has already been taken you will receive a book farther down in your list. You should also include your phone number or e-mail address. Send your check, communication info and list to:

Gary Hertzog
131 Knittle Rd.
Kutztown, PA. 19530

When we receive your check and list, we will fill out the allotted number of tickets with your name and they will be placed in the basket. If you are a winner, we will contact you to arrange a method of delivery of your item/s. If you have any questions, you may call Gary at 610-683-5386.

Hopefully by our October meeting, we will be able to begin a Special Raffle with various items that have been donated to the Round Table. More info on that to follow.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support!

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer announced that the next jaunt will be held on the Saturday November 6th in Gettysburg. We will travel to East Cemetery Hill where Charlie Fennell will be our guide. The cost for the tour will be divided among participants, and we anticipate stopping someplace in Gettysburg for lunch. Please contact Joe to let him know of your interest.

Programs

Events Chairman, Joe Schaeffer reported Kevin Pawlak will be the speaker for the October meeting entitled "Cavalry at Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville". Kevin will be "in person" for the meeting.

Officers for the 25th Campaign

President: Craig Breneiser
Vice President: Mark Quattroch
Treasurer: Tim Antosy
Secretary: Linda Zeiber
Preservation: Mark Quattroch
Events Chairman: Joe Schaeffer
Book Raffle: Gary Hertzog
Meal Captain: Kathy Little
Webmaster: Lisa Breneiser

Member Information

Lori Border reported that she has received a few memberships for the 25th Campaign. She reminded everyone to have their memberships in by the October meeting. The membership dues are used for our speakers and website.

Website

Lisa Breneiser reported the website has been updated with the new preservation totals through the 24th Campaign and the Booklist has been updated.

The member area includes the links to our previous presenters and their presentations. Our website address is: <http://firstdefenderscwr.us> Please reach out to Lisa at Lisa.breneiser@gmail.com if you need access to the member area.

Please verify that First Defenders is a trusted email address, in your address book. There have been reports of members not receiving their meal confirmations. Gmail, especially has been cracking down on email blasts. Please check your spam folder for our emails.

Rodney LaPearl suggested reading "It Wasn't All About Slavery: Exposing the Great Lie About the Civil War" by Samuel Mitcham. Distinguished military historian Samuel Mitcham argues in his provocative new book no political party advocated freeing the slaves in the presidential election of 1860. The Republican Party platform opposed the *expansion* of slavery to the western states, but it did not embrace abolition. It will change the way you think about Abraham Lincoln, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the cause and legacy of America's momentous Civil War.

Our kick-off speaker in September, Chris Makowski, Co-founder of the Emerging Civil War, welcomed us to visit www.Emergingcivilwar.com for those who would like to follow the blogs, purchase books or just enjoy more civil war related topics. The Emerging Civil War contributors have 43 published books by Savas Beattie available for purchase.

NOTICE

Our collection of donated books is OVERFLOWING, and we need your help...

- **Regrettably, we will accept no donations of books until further notice**
- **Check out the "Book Shelf" tab on the website where you will find a huge selection of volumes available for purchase. Information is provided explaining how you can pick up books for a low, low price. As always, proceeds will go to preservation.**
- **Beginning in October, books available for raffle will be posted in the newsletter.**

October Program

Prelude to Gettysburg: the Cavalry Battles of Aldie, Middleburg & Upperville

featuring Kevin Pawlak



As Robert E. Lee continued to move north Maryland and Pennsylvania during the summer of 1863, Army of the Potomac commander Joseph Hooker struggled to gain a better understanding of Confederate intentions. Following the cavalry action at Brandy Station, Hooker would still look to his horsemen to find the enemy and develop its intentions. At the same time, Lee would use his cavalry under J.E.B. Stuart to do all that it could to deprive the Union commander of that valuable commodity. The result of this life-and-death chess game resulted in three bloody days of intense cavalry fighting in northern Virginia's Loudoun Valley near the towns of Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville. Often overshadowed

by the climactic action two weeks later at Gettysburg, these oft-overlooked running battles represent a key chapter in a campaign that saw the northern horsemen meet their southern opponents on more equal terms than ever before.

Kevin Pawlak is a Historic Site Manager for Prince William County's Office of Historic Preservation and a Certified Guide at Antietam National Battlefield and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. He is the author of four books on the American Civil War.



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9 NOV 2021	Hallie Vaughn	<i>Dr. Mary Edwards Walker - A Living History Portrayal</i>
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12 APR 2022	John Schildt	<i>The Hospitals of Antietam</i>
10 MAY 2022	**To Be Announced**	

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, October 12, 2021 Meeting & Program:

Important Note: Due to a misunderstanding between Giannotti's Restaurant and the Round Table, the meal price for the coming year should have been \$29.95, not \$29. Beginning in October, the meal charge will be \$30 (to eliminate dealing with change in coins). We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for October are:

- Steamed Shrimp
- Pork Chop
- Pasta with grilled veggies

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or 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, **THURSDAY Oct. 7, 2021**, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$30.00 inclusive for meals.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the **THURSDAY** preceding the meeting. This is the policy of the Giannotti's, 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 Round Table 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.**

**** PLEASE NOTE DUE DATE CHANGE**
RESERVATIONS FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING ARE
DUE BY NOON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7.**

Our 25th Campaign Anniversary celebration will be held at our April 12, 2022 meeting. We hope to see you there!



Our 25th Campaign!

FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE MEMBERSHIP FORM 2021-2022

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

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I would like to have Civil War-related emails announcements received by the Round Table forwarded to me (Opt out any time by notifying the Webmaster.)

Annual Membership fee of \$25 is due by October 12, 2021.

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

**Lori Border
477 Chalfont Place
Reading, PA 19606**

(Or pay in person at the September or October dinner meeting!)

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

November 2021



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

"Pardon me, is the majority always drunk?" So asked a South Carolinian of his (Confederate) congressman in 1863. Nearly 160 years later, the question, no longer restricted to the majority, still seems relevant.

Hardly a surprise, impeachment resolutions have been filed in the House of Representatives against President Joe Biden. There is no mention of "treason, bribery or other high crimes or misdemeanors" as outlined in the U.S. Constitution, but that seems immaterial when politics are at work.

The Founding Fathers specifically removed "maladministration" as a basis for impeachment during their 1787 deliberations in Philadelphia. Other than, perhaps, George Washington, the 44 men who would attain the highest office in the land certainly had those partisans who could have made a case for "maladministration." Indeed, 15 presidents have been subjected to impeachment investigations or resolutions, and four impeachment trials have been held in our nation's history (including three in our recent lifetimes!). But, did any of these efforts meet the definition found in Article II, Section 4?

Then-U.S. Representative Gerald Ford once opined that impeachable offenses are whatever a majority of the House considered them to be; all they need to do is convince their colleagues to agree with them and subsequently convince two-thirds of the Senate to go along. Can the constitutional safeguards enshrined by the Founders have truly fallen to such a pedestrian level?

Harry Truman was once threatened with impeachment for having the temerity to fire General Douglas MacArthur. This pales next to the number of generals who were shown the door by Abraham Lincoln (who also managed to escape articles of impeachment for brazenly ignoring an order issued by Chief Justice Roger Taney!). Which brings to mind another thought: if "pro" is the opposite of "con," what is the opposite of "progress?"

Craig

Round Table Business

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table met on October 12, 2021, at Giannotti's Country Manor. Thirty-three members were present when President Craig Breneiser called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. Craig acknowledged one guest in attendance. Two members joined the meeting virtually.

He reminded everyone of former member Ed Ewing's death. We remember well Ed sharing his vast collection of artifacts each month. We are keeping Ed's wife Joanne, also a former member, in our thoughts and prayers. He also announced that due to the continuing pandemic, the meetings would continue to be held in a hybrid format of in-person and virtual. The prayer was offered by "Chaplin" Ev Binns followed by President Breneiser leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Dinner was then served.

At 8:00 p.m., the evening's presenter, Kevin Pawlak began his program, "Prelude to Gettysburg: "The Cavalry Battles of Aldie, Middleburg & Upperville."

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy presented his report at the October meeting. Our balance as of October 12, 2021, stood at \$3780.14 with \$158.00 ear-marked for preservation minus \$150.00 for a special preservation project. The unencumbered balance as of October 12, 2021, is \$3472.14. As of this report, we have 38 paid members.

Preservation

Our October meeting has come and gone and to all those who came out to hear Kevin Pawlak we raised another \$100. In addition to our Book Raffle, we continue to have a small number of books for sale at our meetings, and this month we also started selling tickets for our special print raffle. Your support of all these efforts is greatly appreciated.

The Central Virginia Battlefield Trust has made an announcement that they are looking to purchase 1.2 acres on the Chancellorsville Battlefield known as the "Beckham Tract." This tract is part of Stonewall Jackson's Flank March and is a triangular parcel that sits on both the Orange Plank Road and the Orange Turnpike. The Trust is looking for donations and is offering a **\$4-\$1 Matching Grant**.

The American Battlefield Trust is looking to preserve 99 acres on the Gaines Mill, Cold Harbor, and Second Deep Bottom battlefields. Second Deep Bottom is part of the Petersburg Campaign. Anyone making a donation towards this project the Trust is offering a **\$3.25-\$1 Matching Grant**.

As of our October Meeting we have raised for this season a total of **\$223**. We have donated **\$200**; and, with Matching Grants, our Total Contribution for Season 25 is **\$2900**.

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer reminded everyone of the next jaunt that will be held on the Saturday, November 6th in Gettysburg. We will travel to East Cemetery Hill where Charlie Fennell will be our guide. The cost for the tour will be divided among participants, and we anticipate stopping some place in Gettysburg for lunch. Please contact Joe to let him know of your interest. Those interested in carpooling can meet at Joe's office (55 Commerce Drive, Wyomissing). The carpool caravan will leave promptly at 7:00 AM!

Book Raffle News

Our selections for the month of November follow:

1. The Petersburg Campaign (The Eastern Front Battles) by Edwin C. Bearss
2. Forgotten Valor (The Memoirs, Journals & Civil War Letters of Orlando B. Wilcox) edited by Robert G. Scott
3. The Army of the Potomac: Mr. Lincoln's Army by Bruce Catton
4. Reveille in Washington by Margaret Leech
5. Homeward Bound (The Demobilization of the Union & Confederate Armies 1865-1866) by William B. Holberton
6. Lincoln and McClellan (The Troubled Partnership Between a President and His General) by John C. Waugh
7. The Cause Lost (Myths and Realities of the Confederacy) by William C. Davis
8. A Strong and Sudden Onslaught (The Cavalry Action at Hanover, Pennsylvania) by John T. Krepps

Our Special Raffle will continue until our December meeting. If there are any virtual members that are interested, the ticket prices are the same as the monthly raffle. Please request tickets in \$5 increments only and send along with your name, e-mail & phone number to:

Gary Hertzog
131 Knittle Rd.
Kutztown, PA. 19530

Checks should be made payable to the First Defenders CWRT.

The prizes for the Special Raffle are:

- 1st Prize. Framed print 11 X 14" of Stonewall Jackson Monument on the Manassas Battlefield (Artistic version)
- 2nd Prize. 4 Framed Photos (5 X 7) by Tim Johnson (The Angel of Maryes Heights, Lookout Mountain, Time to Heal & The Escort)
- 3rd Prize. Set of 6 Gettysburg Battle Field Maps along with a number of CW period newspapers (Reproductions) Newspapers are NY Times & NY Herald and cover Lincoln's 1st & 2nd Inaugurations, Gettysburg Cemetery Dedication, Battle of Antietam, etc. Items were purchased at the original Visitor's Center at Gettysburg

THANK YOU for your help in our preservation efforts!!!

A reminder that we are not accepting book donations at this time. We will probably begin taking donations sometime in 2022.

Member Information

Lori Border reported that she has received a few memberships for the 25th Campaign. She reminded everyone to have their memberships in by the October meeting. The membership dues are used for our speakers and website.

Website

Lisa Breneiser reported the website has been updated with the new preservation totals through the 24th Campaign and the Booklist has been updated.

The member area includes the links to our previous presenters and their presentations. Our website address is: <http://firstdefenderscwr.us> Please reach out to Lisa at Lisa.breneiser@gmail.com if you need access to the member area.

Please verify that First Defenders is a trusted email address, in your address book. There have been reports of members not receiving their meal confirmations. Gmail, especially has been cracking down on email blasts. Please check your spam folder for our emails.

November Program

Dr. Mary Edward Walker

a living history portrayal by Hallie Vaughan

Mary Edwards Walker stands out as one of the more interesting and unusual personalities of the Civil War era. Born in 1832, she would earn a medical degree from Syracuse Medical College in 1855 and pursue a profession that was virtually unheard for a "proper" Victorian Age lady. Throughout her 87 years, she would be an abolitionist, prohibitionist, a prisoner of war and a Civil War surgeon. Along the way, she would be the only woman to ever receive the Medal of Honor.



Doctor Walker would volunteer her services to the Union Army at the outbreak of the War, breaking what today we would call a "glass ceiling." She was captured by the Confederates when she crossed enemy lines to treat wounded civilians, and was arrested as a spy. Doctor Walker would remain a "guest" of the Richmond government until finally being exchanged. After Appomattox, she would receive the Medal of Honor, but spend much of her life fighting to keep it.

Hallie Vaughan has been a Berks Countian since age 12. Graduating from Wilson High School, Slippery Rock University and Gratz College, she taught in the Muhlenberg School District for 35 years during which time she developed an interest in women's history. Hallie has continued doing research on the subject, and has lectured at Alvernia University Seniors College while also presenting to a wide assortment of community and school groups as well as "anyone who wants to listen!" A docent at the Berks History Center, Hallie also volunteers at the Berks County Veterans Affairs Office. She is married and has two sons and four grandchildren.



Coming Silver Anniversary Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
14 DEC 2021	Chris Army	<i>Meade's Pipe Creek Line</i>
11 JAN 2022	Rick Schaus	<i>Lee is Trapped - Williamsport</i>
8 FEB 2022	Dave Fox	<i>Henry Washington Sawyer - Cape May's Civil War Hero</i>
8 MAR 2022	Charlie Fennell	<i>Greene's Brigade - Saviors of Culp's Hill</i>
12 APR 2022	John Schildt	<i>The Hospitals of Antietam</i>
10 MAY 2022	**To Be Announced**	

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, November 9, 2021 Meeting & Program:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for November are:

- Salmon
- Veal Marsala
- Cheese Tortellini

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or 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 Nov. 5, 2021 which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$30.00 inclusive for meals.

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 Giannotti's, 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 Round Table 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.**

Our 25th Campaign Anniversary celebration will be held at our April 12, 2022 meeting. We hope to see you there!



Our 25th Campaign!

FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE MEMBERSHIP FORM 2021-2022

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

☐

I would like to have Civil War-related emails announcements received by the Round Table forwarded to me (Opt out any time by notifying the Webmaster.)

Annual Membership fee is *still just* \$25!

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

**Lori Border
477 Chalfont Place
Reading, PA 19606**

(Or pay in person at a dinner meeting!)

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

December 2021



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

It is often believed the holiday season was spent comparatively peacefully during the Civil War, and the soldiers would reflect inwardly while engaging in unofficial truces with their adversaries across the lines. While it is true there were no major battles at Christmastide, the War was never far from one's mind.

Abraham Lincoln would spend his first holiday in the White House with his family before sitting down with his advisors in an effort to stave off war with Great Britain following the *Trent Affair* six weeks earlier. A year later, he would be anxiously following the decidedly mixed fortunes of the Army of the Cumberland advancing from Nashville to Murfreesboro and a portion of the Army of the Tennessee approaching the well-defended Chickasaw Bluffs near Vicksburg. By his third Christmas in the Executive Mansion, the President would be planning a goodwill visit to Confederates imprisoned at Point Lookout, Maryland. Still, the war ground on.

In what would become his final White House Christmas, Abraham Lincoln would receive that evening the now famous telegram from Major General Sherman: "I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the City of Savannah, with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, and also about 25,000 bales of cotton."

Overjoyed, the President would reply the next day. "Many, many thanks for your Christmas gift, the capture of Savannah." Lincoln would go on to gratefully acknowledge Sherman and the officers and men of his army, and, combined with George Thomas's recent victory at Nashville, he would biblically write, "...it brings those who sat in darkness to see a great light."

Lincoln's next words, though, were sobering. "But what next?" Despite the joy of the holiday season and clear signs the Union was on the move, the President knew the War still needed to be won and clearly saw that peace would be a challenge, too.

As we near the end of a whirlwind 2021...a new administration, the continuing pandemic, an uncertain economy, unrest..., and while wishing everyone a joyous holiday season and blessings for the New Year, we, too, can contemplate Lincoln's inquiry 157 years later: "But, what next?"

Craig

Round Table Business

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table met on November 9, 2021, at Giannotti's Country Manor. Twenty-seven members were present when President Craig Breneiser called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Craig acknowledged two guests, Faith Binns and Michael LeWitt, in attendance. Three members joined the meeting virtually.

A prayer from the Civil War was offered by "Chaplain" Ev Binns followed by President Breneiser leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Dinner was then served. After dinner, Craig conducted a business meeting that included the following reports:

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy presented his report at the November meeting. Our balance as of November 9, 2021, stood at \$3,904.71 with \$259.00 ear-marked for preservation. The unencumbered balance \$3,655.71. As of this report, there is a total of 52 paid members.

Apparently last month, someone paid dues but did not fill out an application form. Please contact Tim Antosy if you are that person. If not, you will not be credited for being a member.

Preservation

We had another great meeting in terms of raising money for preservation. At our November meeting we raised a total of **\$137** of which, \$92 was from our Book Raffle and \$45 was from our special Print Raffle. Thanks to all of you who bought book and print raffle tickets or made a donation. It is greatly appreciated! Just a quick reminder, the December meeting is when we will be holding our print raffle. You still have time to purchase tickets that night up until we hold the raffle. First Prize is a print of Stonewall Jackson's monument at the Manassas Battlefield, and this was given to us by the American Battlefield Trust in appreciation of our support. Gary Hertzog has also been bringing to our meetings a small number of books to sell to raise additional funds and to reduce our book inventory. Also, check out the list of books Gary has on our web site and if there is a book you want, please reach out to Gary.

The American Battlefield Trust has just come out with a new project and matching grant. This involves Gettysburg and saving five acres; four of those acres are right off the Baltimore Pike across from the Comfort Inn Suites Hotel (where the old Military Museum used to be), and the remaining acre is on South Cavalry Field. The Matching Grant is **\$5.83-\$1**.

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine is also looking to raise **\$20,000** to restore the reproduction Rucker Ambulance currently on display in the barn at the Pry House Field Hospital Museum. The Rucker Ambulance, along with the Wheeling or Rosecrans Ambulance, were the two main types of ambulances used by the Union Army. The Museum is contracting with a company which specializes in this type of work. There is no Matching Grant with this project.

Book Raffle News

Our book raffle selections for December follow:

1. *Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania* by William J. Switala
2. *Lincoln's Little War (How His Carefully Crafted Plans Went Astray)* by Webb Garrison
3. *Mosby's Rangers (The True Adventures of the Most Famous Command of the Civil War)* by Jeffry D. Wert
4. *The Civil War and Reconstruction* by J. G. Randall & David H. Donald
5. *The Civil War Narrative (Fredericksburg to Meridian)* by Shelby Foote
6. *Gettysburg July 1* by David G. Martin
7. *Campaigning with Grant* by Horace Porter
8. *Brothers in Arms (The Lives and Experiences of the Men Who Fought the Civil War—in Their Own Words)* by William C. Davis

There will be several other titles available to purchase. Our Special Raffle will conclude in December and, hopefully, we will begin another raffle in 2022 as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary. We had a very good collection of funds in November as we took in \$137.00 between the two raffles. **Thanks to everyone** for your donations and support!!!

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer gave a synopsis of the Saturday, November 6th jaunt to Gettysburg. We traveled to East Cemetery Hill where Charlie Fennell gave a comprehensive tour of the actions that occurred on that part of the battlefield. Being a great guide and erstwhile comedian, Charlie commanded our complete attention. The cost for the tour, divided among the participants, was \$10.00. It was a real bargain and always a joy to share such an experience with other members.

The next Jaunt is scheduled for some time in April once again with Charlie Fennell. The topic and location will be General Greene at Culp's Hill. Stay tuned for more details closer to the spring.

As always, we offer our thanks to Joe for putting the tours together. It's always a great experience.

Member Information

Lori Border, who joined the meeting virtually, reported that her membership number confirms Tim Antosy's report at 52. Although membership dues should have been paid by the October meeting, it is never too late for former members as well as new members to join the Round Table. Membership dues are used exclusively for our speakers and the website.

Website

Lisa Breneiser reported the website has been updated with the new preservation totals through the 24th Campaign and the Booklist has been updated.

The member area includes the links to our previous presenters and their presentations. Our website address is: <http://firstdefenderscwr.us> Please reach out to Lisa at Lisa.breneiser@gmail.com if you need access to the member area.

Please verify that First Defenders is a trusted email address, in your address book. There have been reports of members not receiving their meal confirmations. Gmail, especially has been cracking down on email blasts. Please check your spam folder for our emails.

Newsletter

Please keep in mind that items to be included in the newsletter are due one week from the meeting date. All items of interest and information are welcomed. Send your articles to Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net or call 610-678-1168 for further information.

December Program

Meade's Pipe Creek Line

featuring Chris Army

In late June 1863 George Meade unexpectedly and suddenly found himself in command of the Army of the Potomac. A battle with the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, already on the loose in south-central Pennsylvania, appeared imminent, and there was little time to waste and less time to organize. As he grasped the reins of command, Meade's engineer training was put to the test, and from that he developed a defensive position along Pipe Creek in Carroll County, Maryland. A source of contention both during the imminent Battle of Gettysburg and for years after, veterans and historians have long referred to the "Pipe Creek Line" in an effort to either show Meade as a thoroughly-competent soldier planning for all contingencies or as evidence of cowardice and an unwillingness to cross swords with Robert E. Lee. This presentation will discuss this plan that never came to fruition and which is seldom discussed and (almost) never visited.



Chris Army is a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park, and has led tours around the Battlefield for groups of all demographics from private car tours to West Point Cadets. Chris is the author of an article for *Blue & Gray Magazine* about the North Carolinian Brigade of Alfred M. Scales and is currently working on several Gettysburg related projects. Chris co-authored three resource guides on Civil War actions in Culpeper, Virginia, and has served as a co-moderator of Military History Online. A Past Board President of the Adams County Historical Society, Chris is a product instructor for Johnson Controls. He lives with his wife, Connie, in Dover, Pennsylvania.



Coming Silver Anniversary Campaign Programs

Date	Speaker	Program
11 JAN 2022	Rick Schaus	<i>Lee is Trapped - Williamsport</i>
8 FEB 2022	Dave Fox	<i>Henry Washington Sawyer - Cape May's Civil War Hero</i>
8 MAR 2022	Charlie Fennell	<i>Greene's Brigade - Saviors of Culp's Hill</i>
12 APR 2022	John Schildt	<i>The Hospitals of Antietam</i>
10 MAY 2022	**To Be Announced**	

From Tim Antosy...

On October 23 of this year, I was at Fredericksburg, VA, for the first time. I was impressed with Chris Mackowski's tour. At one point we stopped at the Slaughter Pen Farm which, without that part of the Battle, Fredericksburg would not make much sense. That's how important that piece of property is to the understanding of that battle. To show you just how important that property is, the Virginia Central Preservation Group there paid \$12 million for that property. We should all be proud and enthusiastic when we contribute to preservation. It is so important.

The Slaughter Pen Farm was on the left flank of the Union Army and was the place General Meade and his Pennsylvania Volunteers attacked Stonewall Jackson's front, and, for a short time, did hold a part of that flank. If General Franklin had done the right thing and had brought his troops forward, there never would have been the Battle of Fredericksburg and the terrible Union casualties; but, of course, it didn't happen, and Burnside had no other choice except to attack Marye's Heights the way the Union Army did.

To me, one of the most iconic symbols of the Civil War is the wall at Marye's Heights. Of the original 900 yards that the Union Army fought and died on, there is maybe 150 yards left. That is what can happen if we don't keep buying up properties for preservation. I just wanted you all to know how that affected me, and I hope you all continue to contribute to preservation when you can. Thanks.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, December 14, 2021 **Meeting & Program:**

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for December are:

- Broiled Crab Imperial
- Chicken Piccata
- Manicotti

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or 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 Dec. 10, 2021, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$30.00 inclusive for meals.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reason after noon on the FRIDAY preceding the meeting. This is the policy of the Giannotti's, 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 Round Table should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

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Our 25th Campaign Anniversary celebration will be held at our April 12, 2022 meeting. We hope to see you there!

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

January 2022



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

The dawning of the New Year ushers the social season into the nation's capital, a time when receptions and levees occur at the homes of all the leading lights. Senators, congressmen, cabinet secretaries and even the President of the United States welcome the political elite of both parties and the common man in a spirit of camaraderie and patriotism as the winter winds blow off the Potomac River with celebrations that will continue until Lent.

Oh! If only 2022 could begin as did the New Years of the mid 19th century, and especially that of 1864! A presidential election year was dawning during the most daunting times in the Republic's young history, yet Democrats and Republicans, the mighty and the meek, would mingle together as Americans.

Fast forward, say, about 150-160 years and it seems hard to imagine such disparate voices in anything but a discordant cacophony that would cause even the deaf to shout, "Enough!" It seems unlikely we can expect anything social with the coming season.

We can, however, hope. As we are about to embark on a New Year with its attendant resolutions, we can hope for less vitriol and more civility. Even if we are more common than elite, our own tempered and considered actions can, perhaps, begin a new pandemic that will infect everyone with a better nature. Not every Facebook rant or Twitter storm needs a reply, and not every view expressing a perspective different from our own requires a rejoinder. And, there are better gospels to take into our souls than those proclaimed by MSNBC, OAN, CNN and Fox.

2022 is a mid-term election year, and the stakes may not be as high as they were during the national crisis engulfing the nation in 1864. Then again, perhaps they are. Can we resolve to meet them with the same spirit of comity exhibited by our forbears so many years ago and return to the sacred principles invoked by Abraham Lincoln that we are a "government of the people, by the people and for the people?" *There* is a resolution on which we can all agree!

Lisa and I wish all of the First Defenders, their families and their loved ones a happy, safe, healthy and prosperous New Year sweetened with joy and happiness in all things!

Craig

Round Table Business

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table met on December 14, 2021, at Giannotti's Country Manor. Thirty-five were in attendance when Vice President Mark Quattrock called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. Mark acknowledged a guest with Iris Ringler, Bob Dutt, and welcomed back to the fold former member Mark Pflum. Three members joined the meeting virtually.

A prayer was offered by "Chaplain" Ev Binns followed by President Breneiser leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Dinner was then served. After dinner, Vice President Quattrock conducted a business meeting that included the following reports:

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy presented his report. Our balance as of December 12, 2021, stood at \$3,939.25. The Preservation Fund stands at \$396.00 for a special preservation project giving us an unencumbered total of \$3,393.25 in the treasury.

Preservation

Our work continues for Preservation as we raised another \$134 at our December Meeting of which, \$94 came from our Book Raffle and \$40 came from our special print raffle. In addition, we have been selling a small number of books at our meetings. Thanks to all of you who: bought books, bought raffle tickets for our book and print raffles and, donated money. As always it is greatly appreciated and the money we raise goes towards a very good cause. Congratulations goes to all the winners in both our book and print raffles.

The membership approved 3 donations to the American Battlefield Trust. The first donation is in the amount of **\$100** to go towards Morten's Ford and is being made in the name of our guest speaker for the December Meeting, Chris Army. The second donation is in the amount of **\$100** and it is for **\$12.50-\$1** Matching Grant for Todd's Tavern and the Petersburg Battlefield with the Weldon Railroad and the Jerusalem Plank Road. Our 3rd and final donation is in the amount of **\$100** and it is for a **\$5.83-\$1** Matching Grant for land on the Gettysburg Battlefield. The Trust is acquiring land on the Baltimore Pike across from the Comfort Inn Suites Hotel where there was a Military Museum and Spiro's Sutlery. The Trust is also, acquiring land on South Cavalry Field. Thanks to everyone for supporting these donations.

Book Raffle

Our book selections for January 2022 are as follows:

1. The Seven Days (The Emergence of Lee) by Clifford Dowdey
2. Soldiers Blue & Gray by James I. Robertson, Jr.
3. Gettysburg's Bloody Wheatfield by Jay Jorgensen
4. Stars in their Courses (The Gettysburg Campaign) by Shelby Foote
5. Voices from the Civil War by Milton Meltzer
6. This was Andersonville by John McElroy
7. From Fields of Glory (Letters of the Civil War) by Rod Gragg
8. The Civil War in Depth, Vols I & II (History in 3-D) by Bob Zeller

The winners of the Special Raffle at our December meeting were:

1st Prize---Print of Stonewall Jackson Monument on the Manassas Battlefield---Everitt Binns

2nd Prize---Set of 4-5x7 Photos by Tim Johnson-Linda Zeiber

3rd Prize---Set of 6 Gettysburg Maps & Civil War Newspaper Reproductions purchased from the old Visitor Center---Vicki Heffner

Congratulations to all of you!!! Hopefully by our first meeting in 2022, we will be able to begin another special raffle as we have some great items. Thanks to all our members for their support of our preservation efforts.

Joe's Jaunts

The next jaunt is scheduled for some time in April once again with LBG Charlie Fennell. The topic and location will be General Greene at Culp's Hill. Stay tuned for more details closer to the spring.

As always, we offer our thanks to Joe for putting the tours together. It's always a great experience.

Website

Lisa Breneiser reported the website has been updated with the new preservation totals through the 24th Campaign and the Booklist has been updated.

The member area includes the links to our previous presenters and their presentations. Our website address is: <http://firstdefenderscwrt.us> Please reach out to Lisa at Lisa.breneiser@gmail.com if you need access to the member area.

Please verify that First Defenders is a trusted email address in your address book. There have been reports of members not receiving their meal confirmations. GMail, especially, has been cracking down on email blasts. Please check your spam folder for our emails.

Newsletter

Please keep in mind that items to be included in the newsletter are due one week from the meeting date. All items of interest and information are welcomed. Send your articles to Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net or call 610-678-1168 for further information.

January Program (this will be a virtual presentation)

Lee is Trapped and Must Be Taken- Williamsport

featuring Richard Schaus

The Pennsylvania Campaign of 1863 reached its climax during the three day Battle of Gettysburg, but would not come to an end for nearly two more weeks. With the Confederates' back to the raging Potomac River at Williamsport, Maryland, Abraham Lincoln counseled, "*Lee is Trapped, and Must be Taken.*" This program covers eleven fateful days *after* Pickett's Charge, and addresses how Major General George G. Meade organized and motivated his Army of the Potomac in response to Lincoln's mandate to bring about the "literal or substantial destruction" of General Robert E. Lee's retreating Army of Northern Virginia. As far as the president was concerned, if Meade aggressively pursued, confronted and defeated Lee before he could escape across the flooded Potomac River, "the rebellion would be over."

The commanders faced difficult tasks, including rallying of their troops for more marching and fighting. Lee had to conduct an orderly withdrawal away from Gettysburg while Meade assessed the condition of his victorious but heavily damaged army. Lee's army was still dangerous, and more than once had snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. Central to the respective commanders' decisions was information received from their intelligence-gathering resources about the movements, intentions and capabilities of their foes. The eleven-day period after Gettysburg was a battle of wits to determine which commander better understood the information he received and directed the movements of his army accordingly. Prepare for some surprising revelations.



Richard R. Schaus, Sergeant Major, US Army (Ret.), served on active duty for more than 30 years in a variety of army and joint military intelligence assignments both at home and abroad. Rick is a lifelong student of the Civil War and American military history, and the Gettysburg Campaign in particular. Along with Thomas Ryan, he is the author of "Lee is Trapped, and Must be Taken" which was written using a host of primary sources including letters, memoirs, diaries, official reports, newspapers and telegrams. These intelligence gems form an exciting and fast-paced narrative that includes a significant amount of new information.



Coming Silver Anniversary Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
8 FEB 2022	Dave Fox	<i>Henry Washington Sawyer - Cape May's Civil War Hero</i>
8 MAR 2022	Charlie Fennell	<i>Greene's Brigade - Saviors of Culp's Hill</i>
12 APR 2022	John Schildt	<i>The Hospitals of Antietam</i>
10 MAY 2022	**To Be Announced**	

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, January 11, 2022, Meeting & Program:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for January are:

- Breaded Fantail Shrimp
- Chicken Parmesan
- Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or 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 Jan. 7, 2022, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$30.00 inclusive for meals.

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The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2022



www.firstdefenderscwr.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"History is about who tells it." So says actor, rapper, singer, songwriter and film producer Daveed Diggs. Not exactly a household name, Diggs is both a Tony and a Grammy award winner having gained fame in the roles of the Marquis de Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson in the acclaimed musical *Hamilton*. (And therein he illustrates his point as a black man portraying Revolutionary War era white men!)

What Mr. Diggs should have said, though, was "*Historiography* is about who tells it." While "history" is a factual event generally not open to discussion, "historiography" is how one studies and (tries to) make sense of it. That a Civil War battle occurred in Adams County on the first three days of July 1863 is, indeed, a fact of history. Whether it was a turning point in the War, Robert E. Lee's worst-fought battle or when James Longstreet personally doomed the Southern cause depends, as Diggs says, on "who tells it."

In the modern era, there are many who suggest we are losing our history to "woke" revisionists who, as the theory goes, never read or studied history in the first place. Time was the "War for Northern Aggression" was all about state's rights; now the conflict is viewed in the more social vein as cleansing the nation from the sin of slavery (an effort that, according to some, is yet to be fully accomplished).

There have been three distinct phases of Civil War literature. The "contemporary" phase was written by those who were there, and they told the story as they saw it (or wanted to see it if you have ever read John Brown Gordon's *Reminiscences of the Civil War* or pretty much anything from Jubal Early). The "post-contemporary" phase through the first half of the 20th Century relied heavily on published and unpublished contemporary sources (which is why both Douglas Southall Freeman and Shelby Foote support Lee's "sunrise attack order" on the second of July as evidence of Longstreet's apostasy). The last phase is best described as the "objective" phase, as authors came to rely less on anecdotes and memories and more solid research to prove or disprove what was thought to be "history."

The social revolution of the last decade suggests a new literary period may now be upon us, one in which the historiography approaches the facts of history from a different perspective. Uncomfortable to some, perhaps shocking to others, it may shine a new, intriguing light on the most significant event of our national story. In our quest to understand, we should welcome the chance to learn more. While historiography may change now and again, the history behind it never will.

Craig

Round Table Business

The January meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table met virtually only on January 11, 2022, beginning at 7:58 p.m. Between illness of members and the uptick in Covid cases, President Breneiser thought it wise to forego the in-person gathering for dinner. Our speaker Richard Shaus had already been scheduled for an online presentation. A total of 15 attended virtually to hear "Lee is Trapped, and Must be Taken - Eleven Fateful Days after Gettysburg July 4-14, 1863."

Craig announced that the February meeting is to be determined as of this writing. Member Dave Fox is scheduled to be our presenter. Craig also had the sad news that Charlie Fennell will not be giving our March program nor will he be able to lead our Culps' Hill field trip in April. He is facing some serious medical issues and will be having surgery. We send our best wishes and prayers to Charlie as he faces these challenges. Joe Schaeffer will keep us informed as to his health and regarding the spring "jaunt".

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy presented his report for the January meeting. Our balance as of January 11, 2022, stood at \$3504.31 with \$230.00 ear-marked for preservation plus \$150.00 for a special project. The unencumbered balance as of January 11, 2022, is \$3124.31. There is a total of 53 paid members.

Book Raffle

Our book selections for February 2022 are as follows:

1. The Seven Days (The Emergence of Lee) by Clifford Dowdey
2. Soldiers Blue & Gray by James I. Robertson, Jr.
3. Gettysburg's Bloody Wheatfield by Jay Jorgensen
4. Stars in their Courses (The Gettysburg Campaign) by Shelby Foote
5. Voices from the Civil War by Milton Meltzer
6. This was Andersonville by John McElroy
7. From Fields of Glory (Letters of the Civil War) by Rod Gragg
8. The Civil War in Depth, Vols I & II (History in 3-D) by Bob Zeller

We will also be starting a new special raffle so look for details of this endeavor.
Gary Hertzog

Website

Lisa Breneiser reported the website has been updated with the new preservation totals through the 24th Campaign and the Booklist has been updated.

The member area includes the links to our previous presenters and their presentations. Our website address is: <http://firstdefenderscwr.us> Please reach out to Lisa at Lisa.breneiser@gmail.com if you need access to the member area.

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February Program

Henry Washington Sawyer- Cape May's Civil War Hero

featuring Dave Fox

Henry Washington Saeger entered the world in 1830 near Allentown, but would venture off to find his own way as a carpenter 18 years later. Relocating to Cape May, New Jersey, he would shed his German heritage by changing his surname to "Sawyer."

When the Civil War broke out, Henry would reach out to Governor Charles Olden even before efforts began to organize volunteers in response to Abraham Lincoln's call on April 15th. The Governor would dispatch Sawyer to Washington with messages for Secretary of War Simon Cameron, and would subsequently be attached to the First Defenders when they arrived.



Following three-months service, Sawyer would return to New Jersey and again tender his services to Governor Olden. Commissioned a second lieutenant in the 1st New Jersey Cavalry, Sawyer would be promoted twice before being wounded and captured at the Battle of Brandy Station in June 1863. During his imprisonment, he would be placed under a death sentence in retribution for the execution of Confederate officers in Kentucky; only the Lincoln government's threat to execute W.H.F.

"Rooney" Lee, son of General Robert E. Lee, as further retaliation brought a stay for Sawyer. He would be exchanged in March 1864, eventually return to his regiment, and be mustered out of service as a brevet lieutenant colonel in the summer of 1865.

Sawyer would return to his adopted home town where he served in both public and business capacities before dying in 1893.



Dave Fox is a charter member of the First Defenders, and has presented to the group on three previous occasions. A graduate of Reading High School and Albright College, Dave is a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam Conflict and a recipient of a Bronze Star. Now retired, Dave spends much of his time immersed in history with a focus on Union cavalry in Virginia (and apparently bores his devoted wife, Susan, with constant references to Civil War history!).



Coming Silver Anniversary Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
8 MAR 2022	Dwight Hughes	<i>Unlike Anything That Ever Floated: the USS Monitor</i>
12 APR 2022	John Schildt	<i>The Hospitals of Antietam</i>
10 MAY 2022	**To Be Announced**	

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022 Meeting & Program:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for February are:

- Broiled Orange Roughy
- Chopped Sirloin
- Linguine with Mushroom Sauce

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or 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, Feb. 4, 2022, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$30.00 inclusive for meals.

***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 Giannotti's, 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.**

Our 25th Campaign Anniversary celebration will be held at our April 12, 2022 meeting. We hope to see you there!

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

March 2022



www.firstdefenderscwr.us

"Be these honorable men?" Such is a question posed at the outset of a presentation I recently developed centering around Wilbur Storey, Clement Vallandigham and Ambrose Burnside whose paths intersected during the late spring and early summer of 1863.

Burnside is a well-known actor in the drama of the Civil War, most commonly associated with the ill-fated Battle of Fredericksburg and, to a somewhat lesser extent, the tragedy of the "Crater" at Petersburg. Sometimes described as the "King of the Copperheads," Vallandigham was such a thorn in the side of the Lincoln Administration that he was banished to the South (which didn't want him, either, and promptly provided him passage to Canada!). Storey is lesser known to most students of the Civil War, but as the editor of the *Chicago Times*, the most influential newspaper outside of New York, he was a feared partisan whose virulent invective led the Democratic charge and who was (another) thorn in Lincoln's backside.

Each of these men, though, was entirely human and strongly believed in the causes he espoused. By the standard of the times, none were inherently "bad" men and certainly none could legitimately be viewed as "evil" (although one could certainly find a pretty large group of folks who would disagree). Each had a set of principles in he strongly believed and which aligned with a significant proportion of the American population. They were all men of their time, and their "honor" would collide in the Ohio River Valley in a series of incidents which, again, created another unwanted pain in the posterior of a harried Abraham Lincoln.

Today, the din of 24-hour cable news introduces us to many men and, with the progress of a century and a half, women. In our polarized society, the difference between a saint and a satanic minion often depends on just where you happen to be standing at any moment in time. Simply consider the disparity of views between our current president and his immediate predecessor. (For fun, tee up that question on any social media platform!)

If we closely study Wilbur Storey, Clement Vallandigham and Ambrose Burnside, we may find, though we disagree with their positions, their statements or their actions, there was a measure of "honor" about them which we can admire if we consider them closely and without prejudgment. How might future generations, when considering the leading personalities of today, answer the question, "Be these honorable men (and women)?"

Craig

Round Table Business

The February meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table was called to order at 6:20 pm, February 8, 2022, by President Craig Breneiser at Giannotti's Country Manor Restaurant with 17 members attending in person. Six members attended online for a total of 23 attendees.

Craig announced that V. P. Mark Quattrock had an emergency situation at home and was unable to attend the meeting. Mark reported by email that he had no preservation report for the evening. Similarly, Secretary Linda Zeiber experienced a personal emergency and could not attend the meeting in person. Many thanks to Lisa Breneiser for stepping in to record the minutes of the February meeting.

Member News: Roger Cotterill is currently in a nursing facility in Drums, PA, dealing with medical issues. Dave Fox had spoken to him on February 7, 2022. Roger relayed that he misses talking to people since he doesn't have many people in his facility to talk with. He would love to hear from Round Table members. He appreciates cards and phone calls. If you would like to call, please call on a Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday or Sunday since he is in dialysis on the other week days and cannot take calls. His cell phone is 570-708-2644. The following is his mailing information:

Roger Cotterill
Providence Place
149 S. Hunter Hwy.
Apt. 326
Drums, PA 18220

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy presented his report for the February 2022 meeting. Our balance as of February 7, 2022, stood at \$3432.02 with \$230.00 ear-marked for preservation plus \$150.00 for a special project. The unencumbered balance as of February 7, 2022, is \$3052.02. There is a total of 53 paid members.

Book Raffle

Our March selections for the book raffle follow:

1. CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS by Reid Mitchell
2. AN HONORABLE DEFEAT by William C. Davis
3. CIVIL WAR BARONS by Jeffrey D. Wert
4. ORDEAL BY FIRE by James M. McPherson & James K. Hogue
5. LEE CONSIDERED by Alan T. Nolan
6. MOSBY'S MEMOIRS by Col. John S. Mosby
7. MY ENEMY, MY BROTHER by Joseph E. Persico & KILLED IN ACTION by Gregory A. Coco (2-Book Set)
8. HARPER'S PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR

At our February meeting we began a new raffle to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the First Defenders CWRT. The prizes are as follows:

Grand Prize: 23 ¼ X 33 ¼ "Mort Künstler Print (DISTANT THUNDER) with COA

1st Prize: Set of Fans from the 75th Anniversary Reunion of the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-4, 1938

2nd Prize: The Photographic History of the Civil War (10 Volumes)

3rd Prize: Echoes of Glory, Illustrated History of the CW, 3 Book Set

The raffle will continue to our last meeting in May. Ticket prices are the same as the monthly raffle. If anyone is interested in donating books, please see Gary at the next meeting; he can take some new selections, but it will be limited.

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaffer announced that LBG and friend Charlie Fennel has bladder cancer and is currently being treated at Johns Hopkins. He will be undergoing surgery and treatment. He has cancelled his Round Table program for March, and has also cancelled the spring jaunt to Culp's Hill. Charlie has asked to reschedule for our next campaign.

Joe asked for ideas for a different jaunt this spring. Please contact him.

Our speaker for March will be Dwight Hughes, "Unlike Anything That Ever Floated: The U. S. S. Monitor". The program seems especially appropriate since the Battle of Hampton Roads occurred on March 8-9, 1862.

The April speaker will be John Shildt who has presented programs in the past.

The May speaker is TBD.

Conferences

It has been reported that Heather Miller of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College is offering a 15% discount to any of our Round Table members who would like to attend the conference from June 10-15, 2022. Wally Heimbach recommends the conference and noted that the lecturers are top-notch. The tours are also very good, and, if you have the opportunity to do a "staff-ride," he encourages you to do so. Dorm room accommodations are available.

New Book

Jeff Wert has a new book about to be released entitled, "The Heart of Hell: The Soldiers Struggle for Spotsylvania's Bloody Angle." Jeff has spoken at the Round Table many times. He has never disappointed us.

Website

Lisa Breneiser reported the website has been updated with the new preservation totals through the 24th Campaign and the Booklist has also been updated.

The member area includes the links to our previous presenters and their presentations.

Our website address is: <http://firstdefenderscwrt.us> Please reach out to Lisa at Lisa.breneiser@gmail.com if you need access to the member area.

Please verify that First Defenders is a trusted email address, in your address book. There have been reports of members not receiving their meal confirmations. Gmail, especially has been cracking down on email blasts. Please check your spam folder for our emails.

Newsletter

Please keep in mind that items to be included in the newsletter are due one week from the meeting date. All items of interest and information are welcomed. Send your articles to Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net or call 610-678-1168 for further information.

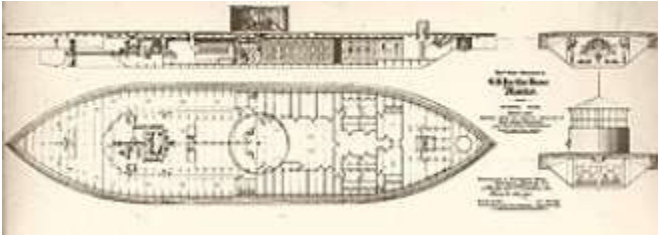
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March Program

Unlike Anything That Ever Floated: the *U.S.S. Monitor*

Featuring Dwight Hughes

The U.S.S. *Monitor* was an ingenious but hurried response to both the imminent threat of the Confederate ironclad C.S.S. *Virginia* and the growing prospect of international intervention in favor of the South by



powerful British and French ironclads. The United States Navy had no defenses against either menace, but *Monitor* would become a cultural icon of American

industrial strength and ingenuity. This largely symbolic role would far outshine her actual accomplishments beyond the single engagement that captured the imagination and changed the dynamics at sea. This presentation takes *Monitor* from her inception in the mind of a brilliant inventor through the dramatic first clash of ironclads at Hampton Roads in March 1862.



Dwight Hughes is a public historian, author and speaker. A 1967 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, he had a 20 year career as a Navy surface warfare officer and was decorated with a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Following his retirement from the Navy, Dwight's second career was in software engineering, primarily in geographic feature naming data and electronic mapping under contract to the U.S. Geological Survey (a ridge in Antarctica is named after him for his contributions to that continent's databases!). A lover of sea and ships, Dwight has

written several books and is a contributing author to the Emerging Civil War. He resides near Manassas, Virginia, with his wife, Judi, who is a retired U.S. Air Force officer.

Coming Silver Anniversary Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
12 APR 2022	John Schildt	<i>The Hospitals of Antietam</i>
10 MAY 2022	**To Be Announced**	

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, March 8, 2022 Meeting & Program:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for March are:

- Shrimp Scampi
- Marinated Chicken Breast
- Lasagna with meat

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or 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 4, 2022, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$30.00 inclusive for meals.

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The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

April 2022



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

The company was the basic building block of Civil War armies. Commanded by a captain, regulations set the company strength at 100 souls, although in practice that number might vary slightly. Not all who enlisted would remain with the company as they might be found unfit for duty or sent back home for other reasons. Of course, the battlefield was always a source of attrition as casualties forcefully parted comrades from one another.

Veterans would talk of their shared experiences in the army. They ate at the same mess, received their orders from company officers who they often knew from home, marched together from one campaign to the next and told their stories around the bivouac fires.

A company would often number far more than 100 members. In fact, some had 500 or more during the course of their service as recruitment played a large part in filling vacant places. By the time the War ended in 1865, the muster rolls looked far different than those of the heady days of 1861. Still, the veterans would proudly recall their company and regiment until they answered their final roll call.

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table began life on April 15, 1997 a bit under company strength with just 73 "enlistees." As it progressed through 24 campaigns, its rolls would ebb and flow reaching a high of 101, and now in its 25th campaign reduced to a little more than half-strength at 53. Less than a half dozen of the original roster remain on duty... Lori Border, Jan Fisher, Dave Fox, Rodney LaPearl and Joe Schaeffer...to answer the roll call. Along the way, we've recruited many more, parted ways with some and said a final farewell to other fondly-remembered comrades. Yet still there are First Defenders who can answer "present!" when called to account.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FIRST DEFENDERS, THEN, NOW AND FOR
ANOTHER 25 YEARS! YOUR LEGACY CONTINUES!!**

Craig

Round Table Business

The March meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table was called to order at 6:25 pm, March 8, 2022, by President Craig Breneiser at Giannotti's Country Manor Restaurant with 28 members attending in person. Five members attended online for a total of 33 attendees.

Ev Binns offered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Two guests joined the group, Vicky Heffner's daughter Becca as well as Bob Kreitz's brother-in-law John. We hope both guests will join us again in the future and become members of our Round Table.

Craig announced that Linda and Gerry Zeiber were unable to attend because Gerry had a complication from recent surgery.

Other member news concerned Roger Cotterill who is currently in a nursing facility in Drums, PA, dealing with medical issues. He would love to hear from Round Table members by way of phone calls and cards. If you would like to call him, please call on a Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday or Sunday. He is in dialysis on the other days and can't take calls. His cell phone is 570-708-2644. Send cards or notes to:

Roger Cotterill
Providence Place
149 S. Hunter Hwy.
Apt. 326
Drums, PA 18222

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report Tim Antosy presented his report for the March 2022 meeting. Our balance as of March 7, 2022, stood at \$3495.88 with \$308.00 ear-marked for preservation plus \$150.00 for a special project. The unencumbered balance as of March 7, 2022, is \$2937.88 There is a total of 53 paid members.

Preservation

Our March meeting has come and gone, and we raised a total of \$97 for Preservation from both our Book and Special Print Raffle. Thank you to all of you who continue to support our preservation efforts by purchasing raffle tickets or making donations. Also, congratulations to all of our book raffle winners. Your help and support is always appreciated!

During our March meeting we made a donation of \$200 toward the newest Matching Grant from the American Battlefield Trust of \$163 to \$1 for Civil War Williamsburg. The Trust is looking to purchase 245 acres of the Williamsburg Battlefield where General Winfield Scott Hancock's Brigade fought. It would be here at Williamsburg where General McClellan would call Hancock "**The Superb.**" With the donation we are making our total contribution comes out to \$32,600.

With 2 more months left in Season 25 we have raised \$669 for Preservation and donated \$700. Our Total Contribution for this season with all of the Matching Grants we have donated towards puts us at \$37,433. Looking now at all of the seasons including the current one we have donated **\$36,897** and our Total Contribution(with Matching Grants) for all of our Seasons puts us at **\$470,147** we have contributed. We are \$29,853 shy of hitting a major milestone of \$500,000. This is a goal worth working towards and I hope all of you agree!

Book Raffle News

The April selections for the monthly raffle follow:

1. *Voices of the Civil War, Chancellorsville* Edited by Time-Life Books
2. *A History of the Southern Confederacy* by Clement Eaton
3. *Brave Men in Desperate Times-The Lives of Civil War Soldiers* by John McKay
4. *Two Roads to Sumter (Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis & the March to the Civil War)* by William & Bruce Catton
5. *The Great American Myth (The True Story of Lincoln's Murder)* by George S. Bryan
6. *Southern Lady, Yankee Spy (The True Story of Elizabeth Van Lew)* by Elizabeth R. Varon
7. *A Civil Treasury of Tales, Legends & Folklore* Edited & Introduction by B.A. Botkin
8. *The Confederate Reader* by Richard B. Harwell

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of our preservation efforts through your purchase of tickets, money & book donations. We make a difference.

Our Special Raffle will continue through our next two meetings.

A reminder to those who offered book donations at the March meeting, to please bring them to the April meeting. If other people would like to donate books, please see me at the April meeting. Thanks again for your cooperation and support.

Eight books were auctioned off at the March meeting. Gary noted that he is willing to take some books for future raffles, but please discuss them with him prior to bringing them.

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaffer announced that LBG and friend Charlie Fennel is doing well following treatment for bladder cancer. He has asked to be scheduled in the next campaign. The "jaunt" that had been scheduled for April with Charlie has been canceled, but there may be a trip in May. Details will be announced.

The CWRT of Eastern PA is going to Harpers Ferry and wanted to see if there is any interest among the First Defenders.

DATE: JUNE 04, 2022

HARPER'S FERRY TRIP WITH DENNIS FRYE

\$10.00 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT

CONTACT- CLAIRE CLKUK@PTD.NET

ITINERARY:

Morning - John Brown's War featuring the US arsenal and armory sites; Outbreak of war and T.J. Jackson and Confederate occupation of spring, 1861; the mystery of the US cavalry escape during the Battle of Sept. 1862. Life in a border town with the Potomac River an international boundary between USA and CSA.

Afternoon - 1862 CSA invasion; Stonewall Jackson's siege and capture of Harpers Ferry; prelude to Antietam. Battlefield site visits to Bolivar Heights, Camp Hill and School House Ridge.

Programs

Chris Mackowski is will be our lead speaker in September. We are in need of one more “member” speaker. Ev Binns has agreed to take one of the two spots featuring Round Table members’ programs. Contact Joe Schaffer is you are willing to do a presentation.

Our April speaker will be John Shildt, and Antietam Battlefield icon, who has presented programs in the past. See a program description, below.

The May speaker is TBD.

AAP

From Barbara Shafer—

I received the following email today from Randall Hill:

The Gettysburg Adopt A Position program is on hold right now as the park tries to re-evaluate the way we handle the several different volunteer opportunities that we have. The program is not going away, but it may be changed to help benefit all those involved a little more efficiently.

Stay tuned and thanks for all the help with the monuments.

If anyone would be interested in being coordinator for the group, please contact Barb. You can email bshafer54@comcast.net or call 484-336-8995.

Civil War News

Tim Antosy reported that the GAR Civil War Museum & Library in Philadelphia is on its last legs. They have 70,000 books in their library most of which are about the Philadelphia brigades. He believes it would be valuable for us to make a donation to them to help preserve these books. He will provide more information for the website. No action was taken.

Website

Lisa Breneiser reported the website has been updated with the new preservation totals through the 24th Campaign and the Booklist has been updated.

The member area includes the links to our previous presenters and their presentations. Our website address is: <http://firstdefenderscwrt.us> Please reach out to Lisa at Lisa.breneiser@gmail.com if you need access to the member area.

Please verify that First Defenders is a trusted email address, in your address book. There have been reports of members not receiving their meal confirmations. Gmail, especially has been cracking down on email blasts. Please check your spam folder for our emails.

Newsletter

Please keep in mind that items to be included in the newsletter are due one week from the meeting date. All items of interest and information are welcomed. Send your articles to Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net or call 610-678-1168 for further information.

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April Program

The Hospitals of Antietam

featuring John Schildt

September 17, 1862 remains the bloodiest day in American history as nearly 23,000 casualties were entered on the butcher's bill along the banks of the sluggish Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg, Maryland. As with almost all battles, the majority of those casualties were wounded men who would be in need of medical care.



Although the Confederate Army would re-cross the Potomac River into Virginia late the following day, many of its more seriously injured soldiers would be left behind along with nearly 10,000 Union men. As was becoming increasingly commonplace in the wake of battle, dozens of field hospitals would be set up in commandeered houses, barns and other available buildings. Places like the Smoketown Hospital, Poffenberger's Farm (where Clara Barton tended to the wounded), Samuel Pry's Mill, the Hoffman Hospital, the Crystal (or Locust Spring Hospital) and the German Reformed Church would become places of suffering,

refuge and in many cases the final moments of thousands. The story of the Battle of Antietam is well-known; this program tours the aftermath of that bloody day.

John Schildt has been a lifelong student of Antietam. A previous First Defenders speaker, John is a native of Maryland and a graduate of Shepherd College and the Wesley Theological Seminary. He is both a renowned tour leader and the author of more than a half dozen books including September Echoes, Drums along the Antietam, Four Days in October, Roads to Antietam, Jackson and the Preachers, Antietam Hospitals, and Antietam Through the Years. John was the main speaker at the 125th anniversary of Antietam. While giving tours he likes to make history come alive by the information he shares of people, places and human interest stories.



Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Meeting & Program:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for April are:

- Broiled Crab Cake
- ½ Black Diamond Steak
- Cheese Ravioli

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or 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 8, 2022, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$30.00 inclusive for meals.

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 Giannotti's, 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.

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The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

May 2022



www.firstdefenderscwr.us

There is a recently released volume in the Emerging Civil War's ever increasing library of titles: "The Great 'What Ifs' of the American Civil War." As noted on the dust jacket, "Historians tackle the conflict's most intriguing possibilities."

What might have happened in April 1862 along the Tennessee River had Albert Sidney Johnston not been killed at Shiloh? How might the Civil War have changed had Great Britain intervened either as Confederate ally or simply as a peacemaker? How might the western war been conducted differently if Jefferson Davis had not been so tenaciously loyal to Braxton Bragg? How would Reconstruction unfolded had Abraham Lincoln escaped the assassin's bullet (and would we still view him as an American saint)? And, of course, what might have happened on the first day at Gettysburg had Stonewall Jackson not been shot two months earlier?

The Civil War, like all history, pivots on the slimmest of threads. A twist one direction or the other changes everything that comes after. Whether a general changes a decision or a private hits (or misses) his intended target, the repercussions can echo forever. "What ifs" can be fascinating to ponder.

In our own collective orbits, what if the Civil War had never been fought? What if 25 years ago there had been no vision to create the First Defenders Civil War Round Table? What if we would never have met the friends we have? What if we had never learned fascinating things we never knew? What if we would have nothing to do on the second Tuesday of the month between September and May?? What if there would be no "next campaign?" What if...

Of all the "what ifs" mentioned above, I at least have the answer for one. There *will* be a "next campaign" beginning in September. Have a happy, safe summer, and don't be a "what if" when it comes time for re-enlistment in the First Defenders Civil War Round Table!

Craig

* See enclosed "Fourth Battle of Winchester " for a Braxton Bragg "what if!"

Round Table Business

The April meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table was called to order at 6:27 pm, April 11, 2022, by President Craig Breneiser at Giannotti's Country Manor Restaurant with 32 members attending in person. We welcomed one guest, Jeff Newman from Mountain Rest, SC, Ev Binn's brother-in-law.

Our speaker for the evening, John Schildt, offered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting continued at 7:53 pm following dinner. Craig reminded everyone of the founding of our round table 25 years earlier. Six charter members who are still active were recognized. Souvenir glasses crafted by Lisa Breneiser were presented to Lori Border, Dave Fox, Rodney LaPearl, Bill Quinn, and Joe Schaeffer. The 6th charter member is Jan Fisher who missed the meeting.

[President's Note: I apologize for overlooking Bill Quinn in my message "shout out" last month. He, too, is an original "Valuska Volunteer!"]

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy presented his report for the May 10, 2022, meeting. Our balance as of May 10, 2022, stood at \$3173.16 with \$551.00 ear-marked for preservation plus \$150.00 for a special project. The unencumbered balance as of May 10, 2022, is \$2,368.16. There is a total of 53 paid members.

Book Raffle News

It doesn't seem possible, but our final CWRT meeting of our 25th campaign is upon us! Thank you to everyone for contributing to preserving our historical sites and our history. We help to continue the education of everyone to our history. That's a good thing.

At our final meeting, we will conclude with the Special Raffle ending. Good Luck to All!!

For our last monthly raffle, we will offer the following selections for May:

1. The Civil War Infantryman (In camp, on the march, and in battle) by Gregory A Coco
2. Civil War City (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 1861-1865) by William J. Miller
3. Lee & His Generals by Captain Wm. P. Snow
4. Gettysburg (The 2nd Day) by Harry W. Pfanz
5. Civil War Command & Strategy (The Process of Victory & Defeat) by Archer Jones
6. Island of Mercy (Hospitals in the Maryland Campaign, September 1862) by Dr. Gordon Dammann & John W. Schildt
7. Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant (2 Volumes in 1) published by Konecky & Konecky, NYC
8. Pickett's Charge (The Last Attack at Gettysburg) by Earl J. Hess.

At our final meeting, we will conclude the Special Raffle.

Special Raffle

Grand Prize—23 1/4 x 33 1/4 Mort Kunstler Print (*Distant Thunder*) with COA
1st Prize—Set of Fans from the 75th Anniversary Reunion of the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-4, 1938
2nd Prize—The Photographic History of the Civil War (10 Volumes)
3rd Prize—Echoes of Glory, Illustrated History of the CW, 3-Book Set

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaffer announced that LBG and friend Charlie Fennel is doing well following treatment for bladder cancer. The Culp's Hill "jaunt" that had been scheduled for April with Charlie has been canceled. There will be no spring jaunt this year.

Chris Mackowski is will be our lead speaker in September.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little announced that all meal reservations are due a day earlier than usual for the May meeting. The deadline will be Thursday, May 5, 2022. Please note this important change.

Website

Lisa Breneiser reported the website has been updated with the new preservation totals through the 24th Campaign and the Booklist has been updated.

The member area includes the links to our previous presenters and their presentations. Our website address is: <http://firstdefenderscwr.us> Please reach out to Lisa at Lisa.breneiser@gmail.com if you need access to the member area.

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Please keep in mind that items to be included in the newsletter are due one week from the meeting date. All items of interest and information are welcomed. Send your articles to Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net or call 610-678-1168 for further information.

"The Fourth Battle of Winchester"

In 2002 renowned historian Richard McMurry published an "alternate history" in which there is a fourth battle at Winchester. His thesis, however, was to prove that victory in the Civil War would be won in the west, not the east. It's an interesting read from one of the most fascinating and humorous speakers on the Civil War circuit.

In the preface, McMurry talks about some of the counterfactual questions that have been asked of him over his past thirty years of speaking engagements. He notes he has known the answer to only five. The first is about the enigmatic Braxton Bragg (and we've all known folks who would ask this sort of question!):

Q: What would have happened if Braxton Bragg had used an atomic bomb at Perryville?

A: He probably would have won a clear tactical victory for the Confederates, but you can never know. Being Braxton Bragg, he might have vaporized his own army, thereby effectively ending the war in mid-October 1862.

Another "what if" has been answered by a leading Civil War historian!

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May Program

"Rally 'Round the Flag": Color Bearers at Gettysburg

presented by Dan Welch



Civil War color bearers played both a practical and symbolic role in the final years of Napoleonic warfare. Aligning on the colors provided soldiers with direction when smoke, noise and confusion made it difficult to hear bugle calls or the shouted orders of officers. Soldiers assigned to carry the national or state colors were honored to do so even though they did not carry weapons and were a conspicuous target for opposing riflemen. In this program, we learn more about the heroic stories of color bearers during the three-day Battle of Gettysburg.

Dan Welch is a public educator in Ohio and the former education program coordinator for the Gettysburg Foundation. Dan holds a bachelor's degree in instrumental music education and a master's in military history with a Civil War concentration. He is the author of "The Last Road North: A

Guide to the Gettysburg Campaign, 1863" part of the Emerging Civil War series. Dan continues to serve as a seasonal ranger at the Gettysburg National Military Park



Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, May 10, 2022 Meeting & Program

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for May are:

Breaded Haddock

Chicken Parmesan

Risotto

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or 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, THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$30.00 inclusive for meals.**

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 Giannotti's, 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.**