

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

April 2024



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Washington's Farewell Address set the tone for a nascent United States as the man sought to retire to his beloved Mount Vernon. Lincoln bid an affectionate farewell to friends and neighbors as he left Springfield to assume leadership of a nation already coming apart. MacArthur bid farewell before a packed Congress as he prepared to "just fade away."

This is none of these.

As those who attended our March program know, I have decided to "retire" as president of the First Defenders when my term comes to an end at the conclusion of our 27th Campaign. After a decade in office, it is time for a breath of fresh air and new leadership.

Like a veteran Civil War regiment, we are not as many as we were when I first became your leader. But, while we have lost some longtime stalwarts, we have also recruited new volunteers. And, even with the sesquicentennial and the increased interest in the Civil War long over, we continue to meet, enjoy interesting and intriguing new programs (60 years of study and I *never* heard of Camp Discharge even though my ancestor had been there!) and break bread with both the distinguished veteran historian and the up-and-coming one who will assume his place. My introduction to the First Defenders was in 2010 at Giannotti's, and I relinquish the gavel at the same venue in May.

It is not yet my intention to retire, especially to an estate I do not have (although Lisa and I do enjoy our humble abode in the country). Nor do I plan to "fade away" as we already have many interesting programs on tap for our 28th Campaign (including one by me). And, I am not bidding farewell to my old Round Table friends and new acquaintances (although, just to be safe, I think I will avoid the theatre!). To paraphrase the Happenings from 1967, I will "See You in September!"

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called to order the March meeting of the First Defenders CWRT at 6:28 p.m. on March 12, 2024. Forty-one members including one guest attended. Ev Binns offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Craig made a few comments before dinner service began and welcomed everyone back after a two-months' hiatus caused by bad weather.

Craig announced that he will be stepping down from the presidency at the end of this campaign. He will be available at meetings during the next campaign to set up the electronics as he has done for the ten years of his presidency. He encourages anyone who is interested in volunteering for the Round Table to give serious consideration for a position before the May election.

Vice President/Programs

VP Joe Schaeffer reported an updated schedule of programs for the next campaign. As has been tradition, Chris Mackowski will be speaking at our September meeting. However, Chris has curtailed his speaking engagements for the future wanting to spend time with his growing family. He graciously offered to come to the First Defenders in September as a favor to all of the friends he has made over the years. Brad Gottfried will be speaking in April 2024 as well as leading a jaunt in Gettysburg in May. Details follow in 'Joe's Jaunts' article.

Both Craig Breneiser and Wally Heimbach have been rescheduled for January/February of next season since we missed their programs due to canceled meetings. There are still openings for speakers in November, April, and May.

Joe also discussed the possibility of chartering our round table as a 501 C3. By-laws would need to be written and further research needs to be done in considering this endeavor. There will be more news about this in the future.

Treasurer

Treasurer Lori Border reported the treasury had \$1586.45 as of the end of November 2023, and there was \$1661.61 at the end of the March 2024 meeting. Currently, there is \$369.00 set aside for battlefield preservation.

April Book Raffle News

A return to normalcy with nice weather allowed us to meet for our monthly meeting in March. It was great to be together with everyone again. And our membership was wonderful as we collected \$149.00 for our preservation efforts. THANK YOU! We will end our Special Raffle, which was to conclude in April, at our final meeting in May. A reminder of the items offered to our members:

~SPECIAL RAFFLE~	
Two Grand Prizes – Your Choice	Two Feature Prizes – Your Choice
1. Gettysburg Cyclorama Shadowbox	1. Pen & Key Chain Set (crafted by Michael Lewitt)
2. Gettysburg Battlefield Map	2. <i>R.E. Lee</i> – 4-volume set

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We will draw tickets for the feature prizes first with the first name drawn having the option of which feature prize to claim. After the feature prize drawing, we will draw tickets for the Grand Prize with the first name drawn having the option of claiming their selection of the Grand Prize. If you are not present for the drawing you will unfortunately lose this opportunity of selecting your preference.

A “Thank You” to members who made book donations at the March meeting. Thanks to all members for your support.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little announced reservation deadlines for the April 9, 2024, meeting. **All reservations must be received by April 5, 2024 at noon!** If you have any issues, please call Kathy. Her number and further details are found in the reservation portion of the newsletter.

Membership

Ev Binns reported the membership for the First Defenders currently stands at 52.

Newsletter

Linda Zeiber asked for any newsletter articles to be submitted to her by March 19. As usual, reports and articles are due one week following the monthly meeting. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Linda at 610-678-1168 or email at zeibers@comcast.net.

With the May election approaching quickly, I would like to let the membership know that I will be stepping down as Secretary/Newsletter at the end of this season. I have worked in this capacity for 17 years since 2007, and I want to lay down the responsibility. If anyone has an interest in taking over this job, please make it known to me or Craig. It’s been a fun and, at times, a wild ride!

Joe’s Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer has given details for the next “Jaunt”. On Saturday morning, May 18, 2024, we will have a guided walk of sites in Gettysburg Borough. Bradley Gottfried will be our guide.

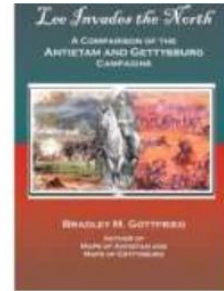
The tour will be approximately 2 hours, and the cost will be \$15.00 per person. Since the walk is in town, no mud and/or rocky trails are expected.

Joe will offer, as usual, plans for those who wish to have lunch together by arranging a location. And, we might make more of a day out of it by having a walk after lunch guided by one of our own. More details will be provided at the April 9th meeting.

April Program

Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Antietam and Gettysburg Campaigns

General Robert E. Lee embarked on two major invasions of the north in 1862 and 1863 that culminated in the battles of Antietam and Gettysburg. While each invasion has been extensively studied, there have been few (to no) comprehensive comparisons of the two. This program compares and contrasts the two campaigns that began with such promise for the Army of Northern Virginia, and will cover the political climate, war effort, the armies, leadership, military intelligence, routes to the battlefield, preliminary encounters, battlefield terrain, the battles and post-campaign events.



Bradley Gottfried was born and raised in Philadelphia and, after receiving his Ph.D. in Zoology, he embarked on a 40-year career in higher education. He retired in 2017 as the President of the College of Southern Maryland, and has written 17 books and numerous magazine articles pertaining to the Civil War. Although perhaps best known for his campaign "map books," he has also written on Gettysburg, the Point Lookout Prisoner of War Camp, and the Hope Antietam paintings. Brad is an Antietam Certified Battlefield Guide and a Gettysburg Licensed Town Guide. He and his wife, Linda, live in Fayetteville, and have four children and four grandchildren.



Future 27th Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
5/14/2024	Kevin Pawlak	<i>Fire on the Mountains: The Battles of South Mountain and Harpers Ferry, September 12-15, 1862</i>

April...

April. The month when spring showers bring May flowers. A season of renewal and new life...

But during the Civil War, April marked a different renewal as soldiers again marched toward battle. And, it was in April when the first shots were fired in anger in Charleston Harbor in 1861.

Four years later, though, as soft spring blossoms awakened, the guns would become silent beginning at Appomattox Courthouse and ending at Palmito Ranch. From 1865 on, it would be the nation that would experience renewal, new life and a new birth of freedom that continues to flourish 159 years later. Praise be!

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday April 9, 2024
Meeting & Program:

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

Salad
Salmon
Veal Parmesan
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, April 5, 2024, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$31.00 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.**