

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

January 2020



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are with another lap around the sun under our collective belts as we look back at the year just past while looking at its nascent successor with equal parts of excitement and trepidation. Together, we make and experience history in our time.

For many years, learning from our history has been an American tradition. It seems, though, in our advancing, technology-driven world, history has been relegated to take a back seat in favor of more "exciting" subjects, and those without an understanding of where we have been are "re-writing" our history as they believe it was (or desire it to have been). For all of our interest in the exactness of the sciences, there seems to be a more cavalier view of our past.

Sixty years ago a young, liberal (for the time) New England war hero would move to center stage in the American story. John F. Kennedy knew, lived and was making history, and he recognized there, "...is little that is more important for an American citizen to know than the history and traditions of his country. Without such knowledge, he stands uncertain and defenseless before the world, knowing neither where he has come from nor where he is going. With such knowledge, he is no longer alone but draws a strength far greater than his own from the cumulative experience of the past and a cumulative vision of the future. The future rises out of the past, and a country's history is a statement of the values and hopes which, having forged what has gone before, will now forecast what is to come."

Most of us have some memory of JFK, and as we have lived our lives since his time we have also been creating new chapters in the American story that he urged us to know and understand so that we, too, could "pass the torch to a new generation." In so doing, though, we sorrowfully recognize that not all of our friends and fellow citizens have embraced such knowledge and understanding as we did when we first received the torch (and as Round Table members continue to do today).

As we transition into 2020, the words of Abraham Lincoln are as poignant now as they were in 1862: "Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial

through which we pass will light us down in honor or dishonor to the latest generation." Words which we are honor-bound to remember and to share with all as we embark on a happy, safe and prosperous New Year!

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the December 10, 2019, meeting to order at 6:21 p.m. at the Inn at Reading with 42 members present. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer, Craig introduced two guests, Jim Walters and Rich Jankowski visiting from the Old Baldy Round Table in Camden County, New Jersey. Rich announced that the Civil War Congress will be hosted by the Old Baldy Round Table on May 1, 2021.

Winners were announced for the special book raffle:

4th Prize—Tim Antosy

3rd Prize—Roger Cotterill

2nd Prize—Vicki Heffner who won a 30-volume set of Time-Life books

1st Prize—Harry Eisenbise who won the Troiani print

Congratulations to those winners and to everyone who bought tickets during the previous months. Gary Hertzog will announce a second special raffle in his report. See or details in the report below and buy your tickets to participate. Remember that all proceeds are used for battlefield preservation.

President Breneiser announced that we would have an abbreviated business meeting in order to adjourn earlier than usual. Inclement weather was predicted for later in the evening so it was important to get those who travel long distances moving a bit earlier.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy presented his report at the December meeting. Our balance as of December 12, 2019, stood at \$3,583.88 with \$308.00 ear-marked for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of December 12, 2019, is \$3,275.88 with 63 members at this time. Welcome to our newest member Jack Kelly.

Preservation/Book Raffle

Bookshelf News

Congratulations to the winners of the Special Garryowen Raffle---3rd Prize, Tim Antosy, 2nd Prize, Roger Cotterill, 1st Prize, Vicky Heffner, and the Grand Prize, Harry G. Eisenbise. Thank You to all who supported the Garryowen Raffle and, of course, the monthly book raffle.

In January 2020, we will begin another raffle for a magnificent print. Noted military artist Keith Rocco's *"Assault on Beverly's Ford---the 8th Illinois Cavalry at Brandy Station, June 9, 1863"* The assault on Beverly's Ford(part of the Battle of Brandy Station) was what would become the opening battle of the Gettysburg Campaign as Union Cavalry sought to break up the concentration of CSA Cavalry under MG J.E.B. Stuart. Though the battle failed to break up the CSA Cavalry concentration,

Stuart's cavalry was roughly handled by the Union cavalry resulting in a morale boost for the Union cavalry and a case of embarrassment for JEB Stuart.

The print measures 12" X 18" and is signed and numbered (1365 of 1863) by the artist. The raffle will run from January to April 2020 and the ticket prices will be the same as the monthly raffle. There will be 3 other runner-up prizes awarded and they will be revealed at our January meeting.

As before, all proceeds will go to battlefield preservation. This print is a beautiful piece of art and perhaps a more manageable piece to grace the walls of your home than the larger "Garryowen" print. Thanks again for your generous support because we can't do it without YOU!

Programs

Dave Unger announced the speaker for the January meeting will be our own Dave Fox. The programs' committee will meet on January 6, 2020, to plan programs for the 24th campaign of the round table. Dave's program will discuss Colonel Charles Albright and the 32nd Pennsylvania Volunteers. February will bring Linda Minarik who will be portraying Mary Todd Lincoln.

January's Program

Colonel Charles Albright & the 132nd PVI" *presented by Dave Fox*

Charles Albright was born in Berks County, but moved to Carbon County while in his teens. After attending Dickinson College, he became a lawyer and a businessman in Mauch Chunk. Active in local politics, Albright would become a delegate to the 1860



Republican Convention in Chicago that nominated Abraham Lincoln for president. When the Civil War broke out, Albright volunteered for the Union Army and was appointed to the colonelcy of the 132nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry in 1862. Albright and his nine-month command saw action in several major battles during their enlistment, and later he became a colonel in two other regiments before the end of the hostilities in 1865.

After the war he was one of the prosecutors of the infamous Molly Maguires in Carbon County where four miners were hung. In the 1870's Albright would be elected to Congress from Carbon County.

Charles Albright was the great, great uncle of program presenter and long-time First Defender Dave Fox. Dave is a former history teacher at Reading High School, and has previously spoken on the life of General David M. Gregg.



Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, January 14, 2020 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for January include: Teriyaki Grilled Chicken, Asian vegetables and rice pilaf; Beef Stroganoff over egg noodles; Haddock Butter Crumb top; or Stir Fry Vegetables Symphony with white rice. Soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$32.00 inclusive for meals.

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, TUESDAY Jan. 7, 2020, 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 TUESDAY preceding the meeting. This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.**

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

23rd Campaign Programs

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
2-11-2020	Linda Minarik	"An Evening with Mary Todd Lincoln"
3-10-2020	Dave Unger	"From Soldiers to Governors"
4-14-2020	Phillip Greenwalt	"From Kirby's Kingdom: Ramifications from the Trans-Mississippi in 1864"
5-12-2020	Tom Huntingdon	"In Search of George Gordon Meade"