

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

January 2022



www.firstdefenderscwrts.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://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.

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.

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!