

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

January 2023



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

President's Message

Every so often I like to challenge myself. For example, I'm not much of a vegetable eater (corn, peas and an occasional well-cooked carrot are about it), but I once took a deep breath and tried asparagus.

The same is true for my reading. Occasionally I will come across a book that I'm pretty certain will be annoying, but I manage to overcome my aversion and read it anyway. About twenty years ago, and after much back-and-forth, I finally bought and read *The South Was Right!* by brothers James and Walter Kennedy. If the title itself does not give a hint where 431 pages are going, the first words on the dust jacket bring things into focus: "much of Civil War history is untrue." The Kennedys then write to prove just why the South was (and still is!) right in a well-researched, if not unbiased, argument for their cause. Reading this book was somewhat tedious, but nonetheless still enlightening.

More recently, I again took a deep breath (and a 30% Target discount!) to delve into *The 1619 Project*. A series of essays, poetry and historical fiction, this book focuses on the African-American experience since their arrival in the New World more than 400 years ago. This history, though, differs markedly with what I learned in school and have read throughout my life, and calls into question some of what I have long-accepted. For example, I have held something of a mythical reverence for the "Founding Fathers" who authored the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. It is disquieting, though, to have a bright light shine on the truth that the man who wrote "all men are created equal" was, indeed, the *owner* of more than a hundred men (and women) who were certainly anything but equal. Similarly, the slave-holding "Father of the Constitution" considered Blacks only three-fifths of a man, and then only for political purposes.

Challenge is good. It can help you understand other points-of-view while learning things about yourself and others. Perhaps it can even produce an "Aha!" moment when something that never made sense finally comes into focus. As we embark on a New Year, resolve to challenge yourself in some way rather than continue complacency and comfort. Your opinions and feelings may not change, but you will benefit from the experience. (Regardless, I still don't like asparagus.)

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the December 14, 2022, meeting of the First Defenders CWRT at 6:26 p.m. Thirty-one members gathered at Giannotti's Country Manor for our monthly meeting. Ev Binns offered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

No new reports were given regarding health issues of members. Craig thanked everyone for his/her wishes for his speedy recovery following his bout with COVID. Craig also discussed the silent auction being run by Gary Hertzog, the proceeds of which go to battlefield preservation, as well as books being sold by our evening's presenter on the subject of Camp Discharge.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$1,973.60, as of December 13, 2022. Last month there was \$253.00 available for preservation. Our membership stands at 50. The unencumbered balance as of December's meeting stands at \$1,720.60.

Preservation

Our December meeting has passed and we raised \$92 from the Book Raffle and another \$30 from our Silent Auction. This gives us a total of **\$122** raised for Preservation. Thanks again to all of you who made donations and took part in either our Book Raffle, Silent Auction or both. It is greatly appreciated!

During the meeting the membership approved two donations for Preservation. The first donation is to the **American Battlefield Trust** in the amount of **\$100** for the **\$3.05-\$1** Matching Grant for the property where General Pickett's Buffet is located in Gettysburg, PA. The Trust is looking to purchase the property and once the property is acquired, they will be tearing down the building and restoring the site back to its 1863 appearance. Once this is completed the property will then be turned over to the National Park Service to be incorporated into the Park.

The second donation is to the **Battle of Franklin Trust** in the amount of **\$100**. There is no Matching Grant with this donation. The Trust has done great work in helping to preserve parts of the Franklin Battlefield. In addition to needing money to help with maintaining the existing parts of the Battlefield the Trust is looking to raise another \$70,000 to purchase another portion of the Battlefield where, Brown's and Wagner's Divisions fought. We are glad to help the Trust out with this endeavor.

The Preservation totals for this season and for all of our seasons will be updated on our web site.

Book Raffle News

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of historic preservation. In December, our raffle took in \$92. In addition, our Silent Auction netted another \$30. Items that were purchased included several decks of CW playing cards, a 1986 CSA calendar with a Robert E. Lee plaque, an artillery shell (hopefully disarmed) and replica of a Bennington flag (circa 1777 or 1877). The final item was purchased by our guest speaker, Brad Upp. Seems as if everyone wants to aid in preserving our history. Out total for historic preservation came to \$122, which with matching contributions, stretches our contribution even farther. Several members also donated new books to our inventory. Thanks to everyone!!!

Meal Captain

Kathy Little thanked everyone for taking care of reservations in a timely manner. She announced that January 6, 2023 is the deadline for reservations for the next meeting.

Member Information

Please do not forget that membership fees (\$25) are now past due. Fill out the membership form and include it with your payment if you have not done so. You may mail this to Lori Border whose information is on the form. We are able to provide top-notch speakers with your dues money so don't forget to re-up your enlistment! Lori Border reported that we currently have 50 paid members.

January Program

10 Commandments of Leadership in the Civil War

presented by **Everitt Binns, Ph.D.**

Throughout our lives, we have all been "led." Some have even had the opportunities to "lead." But, what is "leadership," and how did it play out during the Civil War. There are the obvious examples of Lee and Grant, Jackson and Meade or the less obvious Breckinridge and Thomas. There are the would-be greats of Chase and Burnside and the everyday leadership of Bickerdyke and Rhodes. This presentation focuses on the "commandments" of leadership, where people succeeded and where they failed. It will also provoke the audience to name their own candidates as exemplars of leadership commandments.



Everitt (Ev) Binns holds a doctorate in adult education from the University of Pennsylvania, as well as degrees from the Pennsylvania State University where he served as dean of students at the Hazleton and Schuylkill campuses. A longtime volunteer ambulance provider, Ev transitioned from higher education to become the executive director and chief executive officer of the Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Medical Services for more than 20 years. He continues to lecture, teach and consult. A First Defender for ten years, Ev lives in Allentown with his wife, Faith.



Coming Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
2/14/23	Sue Boardman	<i>Lincoln Statues Around the World</i>
3/14/23	Brad Gottfried	<i>Lee in the Gettysburg Campaign</i>
4/11/23	TBA	
5/9/23	Scott Mingus	<i>Lincoln's Funeral Train in Pennsylvania</i>

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday January 10, 2023 Meeting & Program:

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

Soup
Broiled Crab Cake
Chopped Sirloin
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, January 6, 2023, 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.**