

# The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

January 2024



[www.firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwrt.us)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Historian Richard Hofstadter once said it had all the moral grandeur of a bill of lading. Northerners rejoiced or labeled it the height of hypocrisy. Southerners were outraged, although some were sure it would rededicate their people to the "cause." Europeans felt it made the American Civil War "too pitchy to touch." While it actually did very little in 1863, its impact resonates to this day.

Eight score years ago on New Year's Day, President Abraham Lincoln placed his signature on what today we would call an executive order. The Emancipation Proclamation would make it clear a Union victory and the eventual end of the Civil War would be the end of slavery in the United States. One January 1st, 1863, the Proclamation did not free a single slave, but it sounded the death knell of the country's original sin.

Over the past sixteen decades, Americans have continued to struggle with race. We have come a long way, but the struggle continues with no real end in sight. Individual passions and prejudices continue to smolder while the news media and charlatans with loud microphones only serve to fan the flames. Each of us can look back over our lifetimes and see change that has occurred; we are less able to peer into the future to see just when and how the promise of the Emancipation Proclamation might fully bloom.

Lincoln noted that if he ever went down in history it would be "for this act." Looking down from his heavenly perch and the legacy of 160 years, he might well wonder whether he went too far... or didn't go far enough. Earthly hindsight suggests he started the ball rolling, but it is now for us to direct it on its continuing path to where, one day, there will be no question that "all men (and women) are created equal" and folks wonder how it could have ever been any different.

*Pax in terra! Felix sit annus novus!*

*Craig*

## **Round Table Business**

The December meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table was called to order on December 12, 2023, at 6:25 p.m. by President Craig Breneiser. Ev Binns offered a prayer that a Union soldier at Gettysburg prayed leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thirty-two attended.

Craig welcomed back Roger Cotterrill who had been unable to attend meetings for a long period of time. We all agreed that it was good to see our friend again.

President Breneiser recommended a book entitled *Twelve Days* by Tony Silver. In addition to being a good Civil War book, there is mention of the First Defenders in the writing.

### **Membership**

The time to renew your membership for the 27th campaign of 2023-2024 has passed. However, if you have not already done so, it is never too late. Just fill out the membership form found on the website and return it with your check as soon as possible. If you plan to pay your dues in person at the January meeting, please be sure to fill out **the renewal form** and **bring it along** with your payment even if you have been a member for many years.

Current membership stands at 52.

### **Book Raffle News**

In December the monthly raffle took in \$141 thanks again to the continued support of our membership. Part of the proceeds collected were from additional sales obtained from another bonus book and assorted items for sale which were also well received by our members.

Thank you to everyone for your support of all our preservation efforts. We also continued our Special Raffle which will run until our April meeting.

### **Preservation**

Mark Quattroco shared information about battlefield preservation initiative involving Glendale and Cold Harbor being sponsored by the American Battlefield Trust. He also described two ambulances obtained by the Museum of Civil War Medicine. The Pry House will display one of them.

Civil War Trails sent a letter asking for a \$200 annual sponsorship by our round table. This issue will need discussion before agreeing to it.

Mark will have a more comprehensive article in the February newsletter.

### **Treasurer**

Treasurer Lori Border reported a balance in the treasury as of December 12, 2023, beginning at \$1983.33 and ending at \$1586.45 after expenses. The preservation fund currently has \$228.00 prior to the December meeting.

### **Meal Captain**

Kathy Little reminded everyone that meal reservations are always due on noon the Friday before the meeting. Most members make reservations online; but, for those who call them in, keep in mind that Kathy must be called by the same deadline. All reservations are due by noon on January 5th for the January 9th meeting.

## Newsletter

Articles for inclusion in the monthly newsletter are always due on the Tuesday following the monthly meeting. Contact Linda Zeiber at 610.678.1168 or [zeibers@comcast.net](mailto:zeibers@comcast.net) with questions or concerns.

If you have an interesting story or informative article, please submit it for consideration. Several seasons ago, we had published several personal ancestor stories of our members. We would like to pick up these once again in the newsletter. If you have a story to share, please forward it. Thank you for your continued support, especially to President Craig for his endless patience and assistance with navigating the wonderful world of technology.

## Website

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser reminded everyone that we now have a Facebook page linked to our website: **firstdefenderscwrt.us**. We also encourage current members to invite guests to attend one of our meetings and see the workings of our group.

## January's Program

### *"A Tie that Binds: General John Hartranft, the 1899 Exeter Train Wreck & Beyond"*

presented by Craig Breneiser

John Frederick Hartranft would become a model citizen-soldier and leader in the crucible of the Civil War, rising from a regimental colonel who watched his three-months troops walk away from the Bull Run battlefield to being the man who turned back the last Confederate offensive at Fort Stedman. Offered a regular army commission post-war, he turned instead to Keystone State politics where he served honorable careers as auditor general and governor.



In 1899 following his death ten years earlier, an equestrian statue to his honor was dedicated in the plaza of the state capitol in Harrisburg. Attended by many of his former 51st Pennsylvania veterans who had faced combat, nearly two dozen of them would meet their fates on the way home from the celebration near tiny Exeter Station in Berks County in the most deadly train wreck recorded on the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad. That accident has modern-day connections, and this program will tell the story from beginning to end.

*Craig Breneiser is in his ninth year as president of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table, and this will be his third presentation. Craig has studied and researched the Civil War for 60 years since his first trip to Gettysburg, has presented a number of programs to other groups and edited two period books. Formerly the Berks County 9-1-1 director, Craig continues to consult and provide project management for public-safety services. He resides with his wife, Lisa, in Lehigh County.*



Future 27th Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
2/13/2024	Wally Heimbach	<i>Colonel Edward Cross at the Wheatfield</i>
3/13/2024	Greg Mertz	<i>Intelligence Gathering Issues for Lee and Meade in the Gettysburg Campaign</i>
4/9/2024	Brad Gottfried	<i>Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Antietam &amp; Gettysburg Campaigns</i>
5/14/2024	Kevin Pawlak	<i>-To Be Announced-</i>

**See Pages 5-6 for the December Civil War Jeopardy Q&A!**

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

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

**Soup**  
**Broiled Haddock**  
**Lasagna**  
**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, January 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.**

## Civil War Jeopardy

Politicians	Battles	Capitals	Generals	Potpouri
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>100</b></p> <p>The Wartime governor of the Keystone State.</p> <hr/> <p>Who was Andrew Curtin?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>100</b></p> <p>At the same time as the crisis was brewing at Fort Sumter in 1861, this Florida Fort was also under threat.</p> <hr/> <p>What was Fort Pickens?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>100</b></p> <p>The Volunteer State Capital would be the first to fall to Union troops in 1862.</p> <hr/> <p>What is Nashville?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>100</b></p> <p>"Old Fuss &amp; Feathers"</p> <hr/> <p>Who was Winfield Scott?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>100</b></p> <p>This ship finally ended the depredations of the C.S.S. Alabama.</p> <hr/> <p>What was the U.S.S. Kearsarge?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>200</b></p> <p>He armed his troops with pikes that bore his name.</p> <hr/> <p>Who was Joseph Brown?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>200</b></p> <p>This battle marked the first victory in Ulysses S. Grant's rise to fame.</p> <hr/> <p>What was the Battle of Belmont?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>200</b></p> <p>The first capital of the Confederate States of America.</p> <hr/> <p>What is Montgomery?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>200</b></p> <p>"Old Pete"</p> <hr/> <p>Who was James Longstreet?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>200</b></p> <p>General Sherman reportedly said this respected nurse accompanying his army "ranked me".</p> <hr/> <p>Who was Mary Ann Bickerdyke?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>300</b></p> <p>This former governor of Virginia fled from Fort Donelson before its capture.</p> <hr/> <p>Who was John Floyd?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>300</b></p> <p>This November 1864 battle featured a Confederate assault larger than Pickett's charge at Gettysburg.</p> <hr/> <p>What was the Battle of Franklin?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>300</b></p> <p>In June of 1863, the Army of Northern Virginia would come within a few miles of this capital city.</p> <hr/> <p>What is Harrisburg?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>300</b></p> <p>"Old Blizzards"</p> <hr/> <p>Who was William Loring?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>300</b></p> <p>The black dressmaker became a close confidante of Mary Todd Lincoln.</p> <hr/> <p>Who was Elizabeth Keckley?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>400</b></p> <p>A pre-war Illinois politician turned-general who once challenged Abraham Lincoln to a duel.</p> <hr/> <p>Who was James Shields?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>400</b></p> <p>This South Carolina battle was opened with an assault by the 54th Massachusetts Infantry.</p> <hr/> <p>What is the Battle of Fort Wagner?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>400</b></p> <p>This southern capital would change hands several times during the Spring and Summer of 1863.</p> <hr/> <p>What is Jackson?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>400</b></p> <p>"Spoons"</p> <hr/> <p>Who was Benjamin Butler?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>400</b></p> <p>Union soldiers languished at this Richmond prison camp on an island in the James River.</p> <hr/> <p>What is Belle Island?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>500</b></p> <p>A pre-war senator from Florida, he would be responsible for making the Confederate Navy.</p> <hr/> <p>Who was Stephen Mallory?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>500</b></p> <p>Occurring on March 30, 1865, this was the last offensive assault by the Army of Northern Virginia.</p> <hr/> <p>What was the Battle of Fort Stedman?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>500</b></p> <p>Abraham Lincoln departed from this state capital for Washington, D.C. in February 1861.</p> <hr/> <p>What is Springfield?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>500</b></p> <p>"The Sledge of Nashville"</p> <hr/> <p>Who was George Thomas?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>500</b></p> <p>This pre-war fort off of the Florida Keys guarded access to the Gulf of Mexico and would become a home for political prisoners.</p> <hr/> <p>What is Fort Jefferson?</p>



## Civil War Double Jeopardy

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>200</b> July 21, 1861</p> <p>What was the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas)?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>200</b> General George G. Meade's favorite mount during the Civil War</p> <p>What was Baldy or Old Baldy?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>200</b> The site of the first Ironclad sea battle</p> <p>What is Hampton Roads?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>200</b> Author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights</p> <p>Who was George Mason?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>200</b> The percentage of the population of the United States that died in the U.S. Civil War</p> <p>What is 2%?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>400</b> December 13, 1862</p> <p>What is the Battle of Fredericksburg?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>400</b> The number of horses shot from under General Nathan Bedford Forrest during the war</p> <p>What was Twenty-nine (29)?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>400</b> The winner between the Merrimack and the Monitor</p> <p>What is a draw?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>400</b> Most of these Americans supported neither the Union nor Confederacy</p> <p>Who are Native Americans?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>400</b> It helped millions of former black slaves and poor whites in the South after the Civil War.</p> <p>What was the Freedmen's Bureau?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>600</b> The first submarine sunk in combat on February 17, 1864</p> <p>What was the sinking of the H.L. Hunley?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>600</b> General George B. McClellan's favorite horse</p> <p>What was Dan Webster?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>600</b> The ironic location the location chosen for the funeral of Confederate General John Pegram</p> <p>What was the St Paul Church in Richmond VA where he was married only three weeks earlier?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>600</b> The oldest officer to leave the prewar U.S. Army for Confederate service</p> <p>Who was General David E. Twiggs? (71 years old)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>600</b> Two brothers who became Civil War generals on opposite sides, and both were killed in action</p> <p>Who was General William R. Terrill of Virginia, a Union Brigade commander, killed at the Battle of Perryville in 1862?</p> <p>Who was James B Terrill Confederate brigadier general who was killed at Bethesda Church in 1864?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>800</b> November 25, 1863</p> <p>What was the Battle of Missionary Ridge?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>800</b> Name three horses used by General U.S. Grant during the Civil War.</p> <p>What was Cincinnati, Kanagaroo, Fox, Jeff Davis, and Jack?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>800</b> In this campaign the phrase "The cracker lines open! Full rations boys!" was heard</p> <p>What was Chattanooga?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>800</b> The group that settled primarily in the Shenandoah Valley along the migration route</p> <p>Who are the German and Scot-Irish?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>800</b> During the Battle of Pea Ridge the Confederate commander established his field headquarters in this vehicle</p> <p>What is an ambulance?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1000</b> On November 4, 1862, this patent was issued that was perfected too late for the Civil War</p> <p>What was patent # 36,836 for the Gatling Gun?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1000</b> General Albert Sidney Johnston was riding this horse when he was killed at Shiloh</p> <p>What was Fire-eater?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1000</b> Three out of four Union expeditions against Vicksburg which bogged down in the bayous of the Mississippi River from February to April 1863.</p> <p>What were Duckport Canal, Lake Providence, Yazoo Pass, and Steele's Bayou?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1000</b> This Confederate General was mortally wounded at Falling Waters, Virginia</p> <p>Who was General James J. Pettigrew?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1000</b> The highest-ranking Admiral in the Confederate Navy</p> <p>Who was Admiral Franklin Buchanan?</p>