

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

November 2021



www.firstdefenderscwr.us

"Pardon me, is the majority always drunk?" So asked a South Carolinian of his (Confederate) congressman in 1863. Nearly 160 years later, the question, no longer restricted to the majority, still seems relevant.

Hardly a surprise, impeachment resolutions have been filed in the House of Representatives against President Joe Biden. There is no mention of "treason, bribery or other high crimes or misdemeanors" as outlined in the U.S. Constitution, but that seems immaterial when politics are at work.

The Founding Fathers specifically removed "maladministration" as a basis for impeachment during their 1787 deliberations in Philadelphia. Other than, perhaps, George Washington, the 44 men who would attain the highest office in the land certainly had those partisans who could have made a case for "maladministration." Indeed, 15 presidents have been subjected to impeachment investigations or resolutions, and four impeachment trials have been held in our nation's history (including three in our recent lifetimes!). But, did any of these efforts meet the definition found in Article II, Section 4?

Then-U.S. Representative Gerald Ford once opined that impeachable offenses are whatever a majority of the House considered them to be; all they need to do is convince their colleagues to agree with them and subsequently convince two-thirds of the Senate to go along. Can the constitutional safeguards enshrined by the Founders have truly fallen to such a pedestrian level?

Harry Truman was once threatened with impeachment for having the temerity to fire General Douglas MacArthur. This pales next to the number of generals who were shown the door by Abraham Lincoln (who also managed to escape articles of impeachment for brazenly ignoring an order issued by Chief Justice Roger Taney!). Which brings to mind another thought: if "pro" is the opposite of "con," what is the opposite of "progress?"

Craig

Round Table Business

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table met on October 12, 2021, at Giannotti's Country Manor. Thirty-three members were present when President Craig Breneiser called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. Craig acknowledged one guest in attendance. Two members joined the meeting virtually.

He reminded everyone of former member Ed Ewing's death. We remember well Ed sharing his vast collection of artifacts each month. We are keeping Ed's wife Joanne, also a former member, in our thoughts and prayers. He also announced that due to the continuing pandemic, the meetings would continue to be held in a hybrid format of in-person and virtual. The prayer was offered by "Chaplin" Ev Binns followed by President Breneiser leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Dinner was then served.

At 8:00 p.m., the evening's presenter, Kevin Pawlak began his program, "Prelude to Gettysburg: "The Cavalry Battles of Aldie, Middleburg & Upperville."

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy presented his report at the October meeting. Our balance as of October 12, 2021, stood at \$3780.14 with \$158.00 ear-marked for preservation minus \$150.00 for a special preservation project. The unencumbered balance as of October 12, 2021, is \$3472.14. As of this report, we have 38 paid members.

Preservation

Our October meeting has come and gone and to all those who came out to hear Kevin Pawlak we raised another \$100. In addition to our Book Raffle, we continue to have a small number of books for sale at our meetings, and this month we also started selling tickets for our special print raffle. Your support of all these efforts is greatly appreciated.

The Central Virginia Battlefield Trust has made an announcement that they are looking to purchase 1.2 acres on the Chancellorsville Battlefield known as the "Beckham Tract." This tract is part of Stonewall Jackson's Flank March and is a triangular parcel that sits on both the Orange Plank Road and the Orange Turnpike. The Trust is looking for donations and is offering a **\$4-\$1 Matching Grant**.

The American Battlefield Trust is looking to preserve 99 acres on the Gaines Mill, Cold Harbor, and Second Deep Bottom battlefields. Second Deep Bottom is part of the Petersburg Campaign. Anyone making a donation towards this project the Trust is offering a **\$3.25-\$1 Matching Grant**.

As of our October Meeting we have raised for this season a total of **\$223**. We have donated **\$200**; and, with Matching Grants, our Total Contribution for Season 25 is **\$2900**.

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer reminded everyone of the next jaunt that will be held on the Saturday, November 6th in Gettysburg. We will travel to East Cemetery Hill where Charlie Fennell will be our guide. The cost for the tour will be divided among participants, and we anticipate stopping some place in Gettysburg for lunch. Please contact Joe to let him know of your interest. Those interested in carpooling can meet at Joe's office (55 Commerce Drive, Wyomissing). The carpool caravan will leave promptly at 7:00 AM!

Book Raffle News

Our selections for the month of November follow:

1. The Petersburg Campaign (The Eastern Front Battles) by Edwin C. Bearss
2. Forgotten Valor (The Memoirs, Journals & Civil War Letters of Orlando B. Wilcox) edited by Robert G. Scott
3. The Army of the Potomac: Mr. Lincoln's Army by Bruce Catton
4. Reveille in Washington by Margaret Leech
5. Homeward Bound (The Demobilization of the Union & Confederate Armies 1865-1866) by William B. Holberton
6. Lincoln and McClellan (The Troubled Partnership Between a President and His General) by John C. Waugh
7. The Cause Lost (Myths and Realities of the Confederacy) by William C. Davis
8. A Strong and Sudden Onslaught (The Cavalry Action at Hanover, Pennsylvania) by John T. Krepps

Our Special Raffle will continue until our December meeting. If there are any virtual members that are interested, the ticket prices are the same as the monthly raffle. Please request tickets in \$5 increments only and send along with your name, e-mail & phone number to:

Gary Hertzog
131 Knittle Rd.
Kutztown, PA. 19530

Checks should be made payable to the First Defenders CWRT.

The prizes for the Special Raffle are:

- 1st Prize. Framed print 11 X 14" of Stonewall Jackson Monument on the Manassas Battlefield (Artistic version)
- 2nd Prize. 4 Framed Photos (5 X 7) by Tim Johnson (The Angel of Maryes Heights, Lookout Mountain, Time to Heal & The Escort)
- 3rd Prize. Set of 6 Gettysburg Battle Field Maps along with a number of CW period newspapers (Reproductions) Newspapers are NY Times & NY Herald and cover Lincoln's 1st & 2nd Inaugurations, Gettysburg Cemetery Dedication, Battle of Antietam, etc. Items were purchased at the original Visitor's Center at Gettysburg

THANK YOU for your help in our preservation efforts!!!

A reminder that we are not accepting book donations at this time. We will probably begin taking donations sometime in 2022.

Member Information

Lori Border reported that she has received a few memberships for the 25th Campaign. She reminded everyone to have their memberships in by the October meeting. The membership dues are used for our speakers and website.

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.

November Program

Dr. Mary Edward Walker

a living history portrayal by Hallie Vaughan

Mary Edwards Walker stands out as one of the more interesting and unusual personalities of the Civil War era. Born in 1832, she would earn a medical degree from Syracuse Medical College in 1855 and pursue a profession that was virtually unheard for a "proper" Victorian Age lady. Throughout her 87 years, she would be an abolitionist, prohibitionist, a prisoner of war and a Civil War surgeon. Along the way, she would be the only woman to ever receive the Medal of Honor.



Doctor Walker would volunteer her services to the Union Army at the outbreak of the War, breaking what today we would call a "glass ceiling." She was captured by the Confederates when she crossed enemy lines to treat wounded civilians, and was arrested as a spy. Doctor Walker would remain a "guest" of the Richmond government until finally being exchanged. After Appomattox, she would receive the Medal of Honor, but spend much of her life fighting to keep it.

Hallie Vaughan has been a Berks Countian since age 12. Graduating from Wilson High School, Slippery Rock University and Gratz College, she taught in the Muhlenberg School District for 35 years during which time she developed an interest in women's history. Hallie has continued doing research on the subject, and has lectured at Alvernia University Seniors College while also presenting to a wide assortment of community and school groups as well as "anyone who wants to listen!" A docent at the Berks History Center, Hallie also volunteers at the Berks County Veterans Affairs Office. She is married and has two sons and four grandchildren.



Coming Silver Anniversary Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
14 DEC 2021	Chris Army	<i>Meade's Pipe Creek Line</i>
11 JAN 2022	Rick Schaus	<i>Lee is Trapped - Williamsport</i>
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, November 9, 2021 Meeting & Program:

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

- Salmon
- Veal Marsala
- 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 Nov. 5, 2021 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!



Our 25th Campaign!

FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE MEMBERSHIP FORM 2021-2022

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I would like to have Civil War-related emails announcements received by the Round Table forwarded to me (Opt out any time by notifying the Webmaster.)

Annual Membership fee is *still just* \$25!

Please make the check payable to The First Defenders CWRT and mail to:

**Lori Border
477 Chalfont Place
Reading, PA 19606**

(Or pay in person at a dinner meeting!)