

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

October 2021



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

mon·u·ment: /'mænyəmənt/ *noun* a statue, building, or other structure erected to commemorate a famous or notable person or event

So, based on this dictionary definition, should we be surprised and, I daresay offended, if a desire to commemorate "a famous or notable person" should change over time and as such person recedes into memory or is overtaken by a new way of thinking? Germany has disposed of virtually all vestiges of the Third Reich and Russia has similarly removed many icons of its USSR days. Is it time for our Confederate monumentation to also fade from the scene?

There stands in mid-town (!) Andersonville at the intersection of East Church and South Oglethorpe Streets a monument to a man who was convicted of being a war criminal. Henry Wirz was the notorious (some say "beleaguered") commandant of Camp Sumter where two of my ancestors spent time as guests of the Confederate government and where one remains in eternal sleep since 1864. According to modern dicta, I should be righteously indignant and demand the removal of this abomination.

Perhaps, though, it is better we should re-think the subjects of such monuments. While it may be (past) time to commit Lost Cause dogma to the "picklocks of biographers," there is still much we can learn from and about the subjects of monuments. Robert E. Lee and his lieutenants may not be quite as noble when viewed through a 21st century prism, but they are important threads in the American fabric. There is much they can yet tell us, some good, some not so good, that is important to how we have developed and continue to develop as a nation and as individuals. Taking them out of public view makes such an opportunity more difficult and much less likely.

Henry Wirz had an impact on me 90 years before I was born. Other than his monument being something of a traffic hazard, I prefer to learn more about him and his influence on my life than seeing his monument relegated to old photographs. His story, and those of others not yet gone, can speak to us still if only we listen.

Craig

Round Table Business

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table met on September 14, 2021, at Giannotti's Country Manor. Thirty members were present when President Craig Breneiser called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. Craig introduced himself and called on our members to introduce our guests, David Langdon, Dave Voight and John DeCollo, who have joined as new members. 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 Ev Binns followed by President Breneiser leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Dinner was then served.

At 8:00 p.m., the evening's presenter, Chris Mackowski began his program, "I am too late – Joe Johnston & The Battle of Jackson", in-person. Seven additional members joined the program online.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3,229.16 as of September 14, 2021. The Preservation Fund stands at \$112.00 plus \$150.00 for a special preservation project giving us an unencumbered total of \$2,967.16 in our treasury.

Preservation

Our September speaker, Chris Mackowski is not only Editor and Co-Founder of Emerging Civil War he is also Vice President of Central Virginia Battlefield Trust. This is an organization that has done a lot to preserve the Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Battlefields. Thank you and the CVBT for all you have done with preserving these battlefields.

With the money raised this month we made two donations. The first donation is to the American Battlefield Trust in the amount of \$100 for their \$28-1 Matching Grant for Gettysburg and Second Winchester. The Trust is looking to save 4 acres of the battlefield from East Cemetery Hill along the Baltimore Pike up to Stevens Knoll. This parcel includes the McKnight House.

The second donation was to the Battle of Franklin Trust in the amount of \$100 to help the Trust with managing Rippavilla. Rippavilla was General John Bell Hood's Headquarters during the Battle of Spring Hill. With both the donation for the American Battlefield Trust and the Battle of Franklin Trust our total contribution this season to date is \$2900. Our season is off to a great start thanks to all of you.

Book Raffle News

We're off and running with our 25th campaign and anniversary of the First Defender's Civil War Roundtable. It was a great start as we collected \$123 dollars with the monthly raffle, book sales and some donations. We continue to make a difference with our efforts to help preserve our Civil War history.

Starting in October, we will list the upcoming books for the raffle in our newsletter. We are trying to reach out to our virtual members so they can also participate in the raffle.

The October selections are as follows:

1. RETURN to BULL RUN (The Campaign & Battle of 2nd Manassas) by John J. Hennessy
2. NO BETTER PLACE TO DIE (The Battle of Stones River) by Peter Cozzens

3. GENERAL JAMES LONGSTREET (The Confederacy's Most Controversial Soldier) by Jeffrey D. Wert
4. LINCOLN AS I KNEW HIM (A Collected Biography) by Harold Holzer
5. ALL THAT MAKES A MAN (Love & Ambition in the Civil War South) by Stephen W. Berry II
6. HARVARD'S CIVIL WAR (A History of the 20th Massachusetts Inf.) by Richard F. Miller
7. A BROTHERHOOD OF VALOR (The Common Soldiers of the Stonewall Brig. & the Iron Brig.) by Jeffrey D. Wert
8. THE BLUE AND THE GRAY by Thomas B. Allen

We ask that you make your purchase of tickets in \$5 (7 tickets) increments. Please send a check made payable to the First Defenders Civil War Round Table. With your check, please send a list of the books in the order of your preference so that if your 1st selection has already been taken you will receive a book farther down in your list. You should also include your phone number or e-mail address. Send your check, communication info and list to:

Gary Hertzog
131 Knittle Rd.
Kutztown, PA. 19530

When we receive your check and list, we will fill out the allotted number of tickets with your name and they will be placed in the basket. If you are a winner, we will contact you to arrange a method of delivery of your item/s. If you have any questions, you may call Gary at 610-683-5386.

Hopefully by our October meeting, we will be able to begin a Special Raffle with various items that have been donated to the Round Table. More info on that to follow.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support!

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer announced that the next jaunt 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 someplace in Gettysburg for lunch. Please contact Joe to let him know of your interest.

Programs

Events Chairman, Joe Schaeffer reported Kevin Pawlak will be the speaker for the October meeting entitled "Cavalry at Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville". Kevin will be "in person" for the meeting.

Officers for the 25th Campaign

President: Craig Breneiser
Vice President: Mark Quattrock
Treasurer: Tim Antosy
Secretary: Linda Zeiber
Preservation: Mark Quattrock
Events Chairman: Joe Schaeffer
Book Raffle: Gary Hertzog
Meal Captain: Kathy Little
Webmaster: Lisa Breneiser

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://firstdefenderswrt.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.

Rodney LaPearl suggested reading "It Wasn't All About Slavery: Exposing the Great Lie About the Civil War" by Samuel Mitcham. Distinguished military historian Samuel Mitcham argues in his provocative new book no political party advocated freeing the slaves in the presidential election of 1860. The Republican Party platform opposed the *expansion* of slavery to the western states, but it did not embrace abolition. It will change the way you think about Abraham Lincoln, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the cause and legacy of America's momentous Civil War.

Our kick-off speaker in September, Chris Makowski, Co-founder of the Emerging Civil War, welcomed us to visit www.Emergingcivilwar.com for those who would like to follow the blogs, purchase books or just enjoy more civil war related topics. The Emerging Civil War contributors have 43 published books by Savas Beattie available for purchase.

NOTICE

Our collection of donated books is OVERFLOWING, and we need your help...

- **Regrettably, we will accept no donations of books until further notice**
- **Check out the "Book Shelf" tab on the website where you will find a huge selection of volumes available for purchase. Information is provided explaining how you can pick up books for a low, low price. As always, proceeds will go to preservation.**
- **Beginning in October, books available for raffle will be posted in the newsletter.**

October Program

Prelude to Gettysburg: the Cavalry Battles of Aldie, Middleburg & Upperville

featuring Kevin Pawlak



As Robert E. Lee continued to move north Maryland and Pennsylvania during the summer of 1863, Army of the Potomac commander Joseph Hooker struggled to gain a better understanding of Confederate intentions. Following the cavalry action at Brandy Station, Hooker would still look to his horsemen to find the enemy and develop its intentions. At the same time, Lee would use his cavalry under J.E.B. Stuart to do all that it could to deprive the Union commander of that valuable commodity. The result of this life-and-death chess game resulted in three bloody days of intense cavalry fighting in northern Virginia's Loudoun Valley near the towns of Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville. Often overshadowed by the climactic action two weeks later at Gettysburg, these oft-overlooked running battles represent a key chapter in a campaign that saw the northern horsemen meet their southern opponents on more equal terms than ever before.

Kevin Pawlak is a Historic Site Manager for Prince William County's Office of Historic Preservation and a Certified Guide at Antietam National Battlefield and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. He is the author of four books on the American Civil War.



Coming Silver Anniversary Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
9 NOV 2021	Hallie Vaughn	<i>Dr. Mary Edwards Walker - A Living History Portrayal</i>
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, October 12, 2021 Meeting
& Program:

Important Note: Due to a misunderstanding between Giannotti's Restaurant and the Round Table, the meal price for the coming year should have been \$29.95, not \$29. Beginning in October, the meal charge will be \$30 (to eliminate dealing with change in coins). We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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

- Steamed Shrimp
- Pork Chop
- Pasta with grilled veggies

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, THURSDAY Oct. 7, 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 **THURSDAY** 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.**

**** PLEASE NOTE DUE DATE CHANGE**
RESERVATIONS FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING ARE
DUE BY NOON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7.**

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 of \$25 is due by October 12, 2021.

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 the September or October dinner meeting!)