

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

October 2022



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

President's Message

It was to be a new memorial to Confederate dead, one of the largest and most splendid ever sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. A world renowned artist, the first Jewish graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and veteran of the Battle of New Market would be commissioned to design and create this new memorial.

Working from his studio in Rome, Moses Ezekiel would waive his commission but insist on complete design control. He would accept no suggestions from the UDC or anyone else for his master pièce de résistance.

And what a creation it was! The granite pedestal would feature 32 life-sized high-relief figures of mythical gods alongside southern soldiers and civilians. Two of the figures would even be African Americans: a "mammy" holding the infant child of a Confederate officer and a faithful slave following his young master off to war.

Ezekiel would inscribe in Latin, "Victrix causa diis placuit sed victa Caton." "The victorious cause was pleasing to the gods, but the lost cause to Cato," the great Roman philosopher and statesman renowned for his moral integrity.

Coats of arms of eleven Confederate and three border states would circle the base of a 32-foot shaft crowned with a bronze woman. So the sun will always shine on her face, the woman faces Dixie. Her right hand holds a pruning hook while leaning on a plow. A passage from Isaiah proclaims, "And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks." The left hand extends a laurel wreath toward the south as an acknowledgment of the sacrifices made by the living and the dead.

Dedicated in 1914, the *Washington Post* would praise its focus on peace, the future and the sacrifices made by the South over its fight for constitutional rights. A century later, it would be described as a pro-southern textbook illustrated in bronze. The Department of Defense Naming Commission says it is a problematic from top to bottom and needs to go.

Moses Ezekiel wanted to call his work "New South," but it really has no official name. Rather, it is most often called the "Confederate Memorial" or sometimes the "Confederate Monument." For not too much longer, it can still be found at the center of Stonewall Jackson Circle surrounded by more than 400 Confederate soldiers who rest in peace in Section 16 of the Arlington National Cemetery, America's most hallowed ground.

And now you know the rest of the story...

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the September 13, 2022, meeting of the First Defenders CWRT at 7:35 p.m. kicking off our 26th campaign. Thirty-seven members and guests gathered at Giannotti's Country Manor. Ev Binns offered and a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Craig welcomed 3 guests as well as a new member, Kerry Beans. We were all happy to see Mike Straus return to the fold. We were reminded of the absence of Roger Cotterill who remains in a care facility in Drums, PA. Roger is with us in spirit and misses being at the round table meetings. We all send our best thoughts and wishes to Roger.

Vice President Mark Quattrock made a brief presentation about the Coolidge Case which he and his medical unit of reenactors acquired recently. The following is a description that Mark shared:

In early 1863, Dr. Richard Coolidge, who was a Medical Inspector in the US Army Medical Department, came up with the idea of creating a Field Companion for the Army that would replace all of the other cases and hospital knapsacks. The design that he used was based on a British design that had a lower and upper compartment, was curved to fit tightly against your hip, and had both an over-the-shoulder and a waist strap.

The result was the US Army Field Companion or Coolidge Case. The drugs that were carried were scaled down to 10. This was used both on the battlefield and for sick call and was used at Gettysburg up to the end of the war.

The case was displayed for the first time at the Gettysburg Heritage Center on the weekend of September 10th. Shawn Dyer made the case.

Many thanks to Mark for bringing the case in for us to view and for explaining its inception and use.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$1,911.03 as of September 3, 2022. Last meeting there was \$461.00 available for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of September's meeting stands at \$1717.03. Also included in that number is the \$150.00 in preservation for a special project.

Preservation

Welcome to a brand-new season for the Roundtable. Season 26 started with a bang with our September meeting and it was a very good turnout of members. We had a great first speaker for the season with Chris Mackowski and we raised **\$125** from our Book Raffle. We also started the season with \$137 in the Preservation fund as a carryover from last season.

During the meeting the Membership approved two donations to the American Battlefield Trust. The first donation **\$100** and it is going towards a Matching Grant of **\$13-\$1** to preserve land at Buffington Island, Upperville, Belmont, and Chickasaw Bayou. The second donation is **\$100** and is going towards a **\$10.50-\$1** Matching Grant for Chancellorsville Battlefield and saving the area around Dowdall's Tavern. The Trust has also partnered with the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust to work together to raise money for this project. The members present at the meeting also approved making this donation in the name of Chris Mackowski. Thanks to all of you for continuing to support our Preservation efforts.

Two pieces of news from Gettysburg. First, is the National Park Service is putting the finishing touches on the work they are doing at Devil's Den. No official announcement has been made yet on when Devil's Den will be open to the public. The second bit of news is Little Round Top is officially closed and will remain closed for a total of 18 months. We will keep everyone updated on these projects.

Book Raffle News

Gary Hertzog brought 8 books to raffle. He reported that 4 books were sold outright. He also pointed out that Chris Mackowski had books for sale from the Emerging Civil War. Gary is accepting donated books, but it would be wise to check with him before bringing them to a meeting.

The results from the Special Raffle this past May showed Harry Eisenbise winning the 3rd, 2nd, & 1st prizes. The 3rd prize, *Echoes of Glory*, was a 3-volume *Illustrated History of the Civil War*. 2nd prize, *The Photographic History of the Civil War* was a 10-volume set by Francis T. Miller. The 1st prize was a framed set of fans (CSA & USA) from the 75th Anniversary Reunion of the Battle of Gettysburg (1938). The Grand Prize, a framed print "Distant Thunder" (General Lee at Cashtown Inn) by Mort Kunstler was won by Deb Demarco.. Congratulations to Harry and Deb.

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer announced the details for the fall jaunt to be held on November 5, 2022. LBG Sue Boardman will take our group on a walking tour of monuments beginning at the old parking lot for the original Visitors' Center to the Hancock Memorial. We will gather at the parking lot at 9 a.m. The tour will be 3 hours in duration and will be followed by our customary lunch and fellowship at a site to be selected. The fee for the guide will be shared by those who attend.

On the 1st Sunday in November, former Lancaster Mayor Charlie Smithgall will host a Gatling gun shoot on his farm in southern Lancaster County. Some of his extensive cannon collection will be fired as well as some mortars. He will also demonstrate the firing of a Lyle line-throwing gun. You can contact Charlie at 717-471-4000 for directions and details.

Programs

Joe Schaeffer announced further details regarding programs for the 26th campaign. He explained that the October meeting has been moved to Friday, October 28th in order to accommodate Timothy Smith who will be presenting a program about Grierson's Raid. The November meeting with Charlie Fennell has also been moved back to November 15th so as not to be held on Election Day.

Joe also shared with us the topic of Ev's program in January and the addition of Sue Boardman in our February time slot. Check the "Coming Campaign Programs" for the full lineup following in the newsletter.

Member Information

Please do not forget that membership fees (\$25) are due on or before the October meeting. Fill out the membership form and include it with your payment. You may mail this to Lori Border whose information is on the form. You may also bring it to the October meeting. We are able to provide top-notch speakers with your dues' money so don't forget to re-up your enlistment!

Website

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser announced that books for the raffle and for sale is being updated. Stay tuned. Check your website for pertinent information and fascinating articles.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little asked everyone to be aware that the last date to order meals for the October meeting will be noon on Tuesday, October 25th. The meeting has been moved from the second Tuesday of the month to Friday, October 28th to accommodate our speaker.

October Program

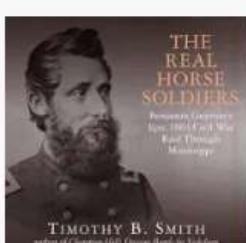
The Real Horse Soldiers: Grierson's Raid

featuring Timothy B. Smith, Ph.D.

"Make way for the screen's two top stars in their most outstanding roles! John Wayne and William Holden riding hell-bent for glory in the most daring adventure. Make way for the Horse Soldiers!"

So claimed the trailer for John Ford's epic 1959 filled with drama and a high stakes gamble based upon the daring real-life raid by Benjamin Grierson and his hand-picked cavalrymen as part of the larger Vicksburg Campaign during the spring and summer of 1863.

Ford's "major motion picture" used cinematic license to chip away at historical accuracy (while adding the obligatory romantic interest of Constance Tower), but Timothy B. Smith's deeply researched and full-length study presents the REAL horse soldiers.



For a little more than two weeks, Grierson's raiders led Confederate pursuers through the entire state of Mississippi from Tennessee to Louisiana tearing up railroad tracks, burning bridges, freeing slaves and generally doing as much damage and creating chaos as possible. The raid diverted the attention of the Confederate high command while Ulysses S. Grant moved his entire Army of the Tennessee across the "Father of Waters" into the Mississippi heartland on his way to the eventual capture of Vicksburg.

John Ford's film promised daring adventure, but Doctor Smith's research has shown the real daring and adventure occurred nearly 100 years before Wayne and Holden faced off on the screen.

Timothy B. Smith is a faculty lecturer at the University of Tennessee-Martin and a former member of the National Park Service staff at Shiloh NMP. He holds a doctorate in history from Mississippi State University, and is the author of more than 15 books. Dr. Smith's volumes on Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg and The Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson's Epic 1863 Raid through Civil War Mississippi are considered the definitive modern studies of these key components of the Vicksburg Campaign.



Coming Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
10/28/22	Timothy B. Smith	The Real Horse Soldiers/Grierson's Raid
11/15/22	Charlie Fennell	Green's Brigade on Culp's Hill
12/13/22	Jim Remsen/Brad Upp	Camp Discharge
1/10/23	Ev Binns	Lost 10 Commandments of the Civil War
2/14/23	Sue Boardman	Lincoln Statues Around the World
3/14/23	Brad Gottfried	Lee in the Gettysburg Campaign
4/11/23	TBA	
5/9/23	Scott Mingus	Lincoln's Funeral Train in Pennsylvania

Dinner Reservations for the Friday, October 28, 2022 Meeting & Program:

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

Breaded Fantail Shrimp Chicken Piccata Cheese Ravioli

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, Tuesday, October 25, 2022, 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.**



Our 26th Campaign!

FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE MEMBERSHIP FORM 2022-2023

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 11, 2022.

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!)