

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2019, the 23rd Campaign



www.firstdefenderscwrts.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January 10, 1862, a weary and frustrated Abraham Lincoln, plagued by public impatience with military inaction in a war he did not want, sadly proclaims, "The bottom is out of the tub."

And so it might seem as we face difficult choices for our coming campaign. Membership has declined over the past few years and we are now faced with new requirements from the Inn at Reading that will necessarily increase our dinner costs and further threaten the vitality and future of our organization. What to do...

We have been blessed with stable meal prices for the past decade, but we now have no choice but to raise the cost from \$25 to \$32 beginning in September. Additionally, the deadline for reservations has been moved from noon on the Friday preceding the meeting to Tuesday...a full week...in advance. While we have been able to negotiate a reduced monthly minimum attendance requirement, we also know participation at our programs during the 22nd Campaign was lower. As Lincoln bemoaned the previous April while waiting for troops to arrive for protection of the national capital, "Why don't they come?"

The Program Committee has worked hard to schedule interesting speakers and topics that reflect the interests expressed by the membership during the survey conducted last spring. That survey also told us you overwhelmingly support the dinner program format; many of us do not remember when costs were last raised, but that time is now at hand. We hope you can continue to stand with us.

There is something for everyone. Good food, great friends and outstanding programs on the second Tuesday of every month from September through May. Although there may be difficulties ahead, I remain optimistic our Round Table, "will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature" as First Defenders rally again on September 10th!

Craig

Round Table Business

The Board of the First Defenders CWRT met on July 23, 2019, to discuss the upcoming campaign. Items for discussion will be shared with the membership during the September meeting. Please see Linda Zeiber, Recording Secretary, if you would like to have the minutes from the meeting.

Membership

It's time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2019-2020. Please fill out the membership form found on the website, and return it with your check as soon as possible to Lori Border. The deadline for payment is October 8, 2019. If you plan to pay your dues in person at the September or October meeting, please be sure to fill out **the renewal form** and **bring it along** with your payment. (A copy of the renewal form is included with this newsletter and can also be found on the website.)

Preservation/Book Raffle

Following last campaign's successful endeavors to save CW battlefields and historical areas, this campaign we have the privilege of making available to our members two historical prints.

The first is Don Troiani's print of the Irish Brigade at Fredericksburg on December 12, 1862. The print is entitled "Garryowen" and is signed and numbered (164 of 1000). The print measures 37" X 22".

The second print is Keith Rocco's "Assault on Beverly's Ford Road" the 8th Illinois Cavalry at Brandy Station on June 9, 1863. This print is also signed and numbered (1365 of 1863). The print measures 12" X 18".

Either print is an excellent illustration of CW history and would be an elegant and noteworthy addition to someone's home. Both prints will be made available to our members through two special raffles. Additional information will be made available at our first meeting. Thank you for your support of the raffles and helping to preserve America's past.

Preservation Corner

Vice President and Preservation Guru Mark Quattroch has put together a detailed report regarding preservation during the 22nd Campaign. The total amount raised and donated by the Round Table came to \$1620. With available leverages offered by various organizations, the actual amount was \$18,793 for Season 22. Looking at all of the campaigns, the amount raised is \$34,125 resulting in \$277,811 with leverages.

Mark has all of the donations with their matching grants listed in his report. Copies of his report are available through Linda Zeiber. Please ask if you would like one.

There are currently 3 American Battlefield Trust Matching grants running including Gettysburg, Stones River, TN, and Perryville Battlefield. These will be discussed at the September meeting.

Save the Date for AAP

The fall date to work at our sites at Gettysburg National Military Park is Thursday, September 26, 2019.

We will meet at Lowes at 8:30 a.m. and carpool to Gettysburg, or you may meet us at the first work site. We work on two of the sites, have lunch, and then work on the remaining sites.

First Defenders have adopted six sites—John Buford monument, John Reynolds monument, Gregg's monument located at East Cavalry Field, 18th PA Cavalry located at Big Round Top, WV 1st Cav (Farnsworth) and Benning's Brigade (TX) on South Confederate Avenue.

We also work on the 6th PA Cavalry and the 8th PA Cavalry sites adopted by Barbara Shafer.

Our spring volunteers included Roger Cotterill, Gary Hertzog, Kathy Little, Barbara Shafer, Bob Stauffer, and Don Stripling. Our group tackled a lot of weeds at the WV 1st Cav (Farnsworth) site, and the other sites had minimal maintenance of the monuments.

Adopt-A-Position 2018 had 1621 volunteers that worked 5371.75 hours at Gettysburg National Military Park. Projects worked on were painting, replacing fences, and clearing brush in addition to the regular maintenance of the monuments.

We will have eight sites to work on. To accomplish this, we need YOU to volunteer. Please let Don Stripling (610-750-3998) or Barbara Shafer (484-336-8995) know of your interest.

If you are unable to volunteer on the designated date and are interested in participating in AAP, please let us know and we will try to arrange an alternate date.

Joe's Jaunts

During the July Board meeting, a discussion ensued about the possibility of using buses once again for Joe's jaunts. Various details were considered to returning to the transportation of former round table trips. While this is feasible, Joe had a conversation with LBG Jim Hessler who will be leading the October 26th trip to Gettysburg. Jim indicated that since we will be visiting some privately-owned sites, access is difficult, and the owners of these sites discourage buses. Jim is aware of the need for bathroom breaks.

The next journey with Joe will be on Saturday, October 26, 2019, to Gettysburg. The topic is Longstreet's March and Counter-March which took place on July 2, 1863. James Hessler will be our guide as he was on last October's Sickle's tour.

We will meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Gettysburg Heritage Center (formerly the Wax Museum). They have bathrooms, snacks, and drinks available. The tour will commence at 9 a.m. As in the past, we will be carpooling. Please let Joe know by email at jschaeffer@edgeabstract.com or phone at 610-334-2029 if you are planning to attend and if you wish to drive or be a passenger. Those who need to can assemble for the ride that morning at Joe's office.

We expect to finish around noon and, for those who wish, enjoy lunch at a pub. Any suggestions for a post-tour pub trip are welcome. As usual, we will split the cost of the guide among the attendees, and the cost of lunch is your own. There will be minimal walking, and the weather in late October should be mild.

Friends, family, and non-members of the round table are welcome to join us. If you have questions, please call, email or see Joe at the September/October meeting.

September Program:

The Great Battle Never Fought: Mine Run

It would be the last meeting between Major General George Gordon Meade and his Southern nemesis Robert E. Lee before Ulysses S. Grant would usurp the Eastern Theatre spotlight in the spring of 1864. Facing immense political pressure to engage the Army of Northern Virginia again in battle, Meade spent the post-Gettysburg fall of 1863 instead engaged in cat-and-mouse generalship with Lee. The dwindling campaign season would come to a head along the banks of a small Orange County, Virginia, stream called Mine Run. There, in late November, George Meade would choose to sacrifice himself instead of his men.



One of the most popular First Defenders CWRT speakers, Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is a professor of journalism and mass communication at St. Bonaventure University and historian-in-residence at Stevenson Ridge, a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield. He also volunteers at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he still gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania), as well as at the building where Stonewall Jackson died.

With Kris White, he is co-founder of Emerging Civil War. Together, they have co-authored a half-dozen Civil War books, and they've written features for every major Civil War magazine. Mackowski is also the solo author of Grant's Last Battle: The Story Behind the Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant; Hell Itself: The Battle of the Wilderness; and Strike Them a Blow: Battle Along the North Anna River. With Albert Z. Conner, Jr., he is co-author of Seizing Destiny: The Army of the Potomac's "Valley Forge" and the Civil War Winter that Saved the Union. Mackowski and White were honored in 2016 by the Army Historical Foundation with its Lt. Gen. Richard G. Trefry Award for contributions to the field.

.....

ATTENTION!

ATTENTION!

ATTENTION!

ATTENTION!

There are TWO major CHANGES for meal reservations. The Reading Inn has raised the prices for the meals at our meetings. The price will now be \$32.00.

The second CHANGE is the date for the reservations. The reservation MUST be in by the TUESDAY before our meeting date. For September, your reservation must be made no later than noon TUESDAY, September 3, 2019. These changes were made by the Inn, so mark your calendars! See you in September.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019 Meeting:

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for Sept. include: Stuffed Chicken with Sausage and Sage; Simmered Beef with Portabella Mushrooms; Potato Crusted Cod with Dill Cream Sauce; Linguini Forno with fresh grilled vegetables tossed in garlic sauce and pasta. Salad, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$32.00 inclusive for meals.

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 Sept. 3, 2019, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the TUESDAY preceding the meeting. This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, 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.**

23rd CAMPAIGN PROGRAMS

DATE	SPEAKER	PROGRAM
10-8-2019	Jeffry Wert	Civil War Barons
11-12-2019	Wally Heimbach	Phil Kearny: Soldier of Fortune
12-10-2019	Paula Gidjunis	The 128th Pennsylvania Volunteers
1-14-2020	Dave Fox	Col. Charles Albright & the 32nd PVI
2-11-2020	Linda Minarik	Mary Todd Lincoln: A Living History Portrayal
3-10-2020	Dave Unger	From Soldiers to Governors
4-14-2020	Phillip Greenwalt	From Kirby's Kingdom: Ramifications from the Trans-Mississippi in 1864
5-15-2020	TBA	



**FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2019-2020**

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 8, 2019.**

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

Lori Border
30 East 40th Street
Reading, PA 19606