

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2022



www.firstdefenderscwrts.org

President's Message

The summer has been unusually warm, and many days have been unseasonably hot, made more unbearable by a persistent drought. All around us, the political rhetoric and 24-hour news cycle have been no less intemperate as we grow closer to an off-year federal election where, so we are told, the future of democracy is at stake as the penultimate battle of good versus evil will decide our future.

The lack of rainfall has turned our lawns brown and crops in the field lack their usual robustness. Legend tells us, though, the rapidly approaching fall will be filled with vibrant hues as leaves stage their final pageant before making way for what the Farmer's Almanac promises will be a hard winter.

As we look around the Round Table campfires, we see that many of our sister organizations have become but a shell of their former selves, victims of a pandemic that is still among us or an aging Boomer population that has long valued the study of history. Like the aftermath of a Civil War battle, some of the faithful are, sadly, no longer here to answer the roll call.

But, enough negativity! My heart overflows and my pulse quickens to know the start of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table campaign is almost upon us. A time to see old friends again after so many months, and an opportunity to make new ones. A time to indulge our mutual passions for history and escape, if only for an hour or two, the harangues of a world seemingly gone mad.

It is time for the 26th Campaign...

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser opened the meeting at Giannotti's Country Restaurant with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. 29 members attended the meeting in person, and three more joined virtually for the meeting and program.

Vice President Quattroch reported on a 13-to-1 match campaign by the American Battlefield Trust to benefit four different sites. Additionally, this evening's speaker, Dan Welch, has suggested supporting the Gettysburg Foundation. A motion was made a seconded to donate \$100 to each organization with the Foundation contribution to be made in Mr. Welch's name.

President Breneiser noted it was time to elect officers for the 26th Campaign that will begin in September. Any member is eligible to hold any office, and the President asked for nominations. Wally Heimbach made a motion, seconded by Joe Schaeffer, that all current officers continue in their roles; motion passed by acclamation.

Officers for the 26th Campaign

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

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$ 2,600.08 as of May 10th with \$551 available for preservation. Our membership for the campaign is 53.

As of August 15th, the treasury balance is \$2,084.21 with \$461 available for preservation; also included in that number is the \$150.00 in preservation for a special project.

Book Raffle News

Nine books were available for the evening's raffle.

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer reported it is hoped a Jaunt will be able to be scheduled in the fall.

Programs

Joe Schaeffer also reported the speaker line-up for the 26th Campaign is progressing. Chris Mackowski will again be our lead-off speaker in September, and the rest of the schedule is being filled out. Joe noted two schedule changes: the October program will be moved to Friday, October 28th, in order to feature historian Timothy B. Smith, and the November program will be pushed back one week to November 15th to avoid a conflict with Election Day.

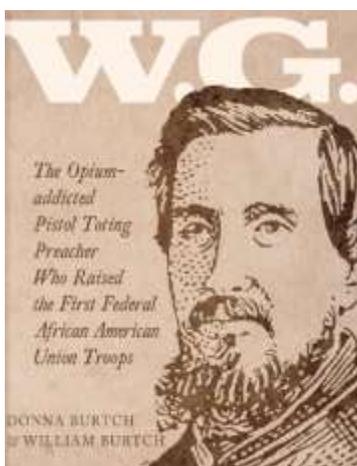
A Simple, Dignified Final Resting Place for a Great American

Many of the First Defenders fondly recall the memorable presentations of the incomparable Ed Bearss who graced our "Table" many times. Anyone who followed Ed on a battlefield tour was absolutely certain he would always be a step ahead of the Grim Reaper. Alas, it was not to be so, and Ed departed this world nearly two years ago. He rests eternally with his beloved wife, Margie, in the Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery in Rankin County, Mississippi. No towering obelisk, no equestrian statue and no fancy vault for this Marine. A simple granite headstone for Margie and Ed and a Department of Defense tablet proudly proclaiming his service to the country he loved and spent a lifetime passing its historical legacy onto new generations. *Semper Fi!*



Photo Courtesy of Errol Steffy

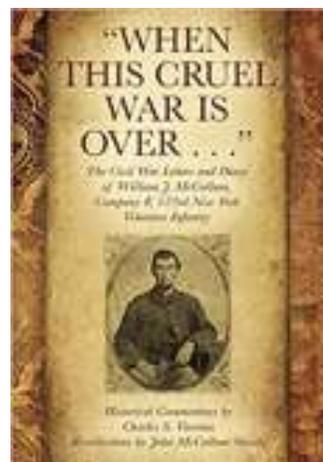
New Reading



Donna and William Burtch would be honored if you checked out their new biography (Sunbury Press) on the story of the remarkable 1st USCT and their complicated, staunch abolitionist officer, W.G. Raymond. The Burtches are sibling authors and W.G. was their 3x great-grandfather. His courageous pioneering unit would be ghosted by the War Department despite being authorized by President Lincoln. W.G. paid for troop provisions himself, never to be repaid.

Click on <https://wgthebook.com/> to learn more!

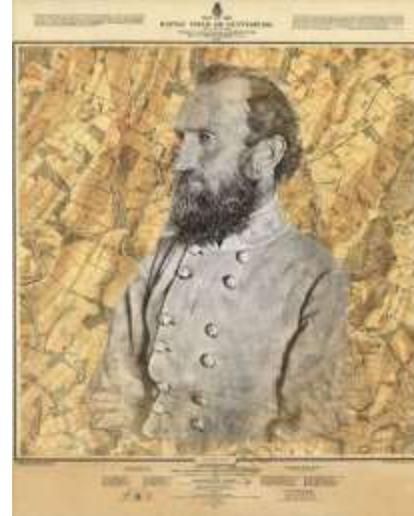
Sergeant William McCollum recounts the life of a Union infantry soldier marching with generals Hooker and Sherman. He first saw action on the Orange Turnpike in Chancellorsville, was involved in recapturing Culp's Hill at Gettysburg, was pinned down in the open field at Resaca, was a picket running from Hood's assault at Kolb's farm and faced Stewart's surprise attack at Peach Tree Creek – all were among the moments of terror William experienced. He fought disease, scarcities of food and clothing, brutal cold, scorching heat, relentless rain, endless mud, and losing comrades, all the while maintaining a positive tone in letters home so as not to worry family and friends. *When This Cruel War is Over* contains 94 letters spanning the years 1862 – 1865 and the 1865 diary of Sergeant McCollum. The letters speak not only to camp life and marching orders, but to concerns for his family and friends back home on the farm. <https://outskirtspress.com/WhenThisCruelWarIsOver>



September Program

"Stonewall" Jackson at Gettysburg

"Oh, for the presence and inspiration of Old Jack for just one hour!" Words attributed to Stonewall Jackson's chief-of-staff Alexander "Sandie" Pendleton late on the afternoon of July 1, 1863 as the worn out and overwhelmed infantrymen of the Union I and IX Corps retreated through Gettysburg to a new defensive position on Cemetery Hill and General Richard Ewell determined a Confederate pursuit was not "practicable." From that moment until the present day, the ghost of Thomas Jonathan Jackson has continued to haunt the battlefield he never saw and which would have turned out far differently if he had.



But, would it have been so? Historians have begged the question for more than a century-and-a-half positing countless different scenarios had Jackson survived Chancellorsville including whether Gettysburg would have remained a sleepy Adams County town of which no one ever heard. Today, Emerging Civil War historian Chris Mackowski revisits the long-simmering parlor game of "Stonewall Jackson at Gettysburg."



Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is a professor of journalism and mass communication at St. Bonaventure University, and is the historian-in-residence at Stevenson Ridge, a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield. A veteran volunteer at the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, Chris is also a co-founder of Emerging Civil War and the author or editor of an entire series of new writings from a new generation of Civil War historians. Chris has presented to the First Defenders many times and been the lead-off speaker for every campaign since 2018!

Coming 26th Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
13 SEP 2022	Chris Mackowski	<i>Stonewall Jackson at Gettysburg</i>
28 OCT 2022	Timothy B. Smith	<i>The Real Horse Soldiers: Grierson's Raid</i>
15 NOV 2022	Charlie Fennell	<i>Green's Brigade on Culp's Hill</i>
13 DEC 2022	Jim Remsen & Brad Upp	<i>Camp Discharge</i>
10 JAN 2023	Ev Binns	<i>**To Be Announced**</i>
14 FEB 2023		<i>""To Be Announced""</i>
14 MAR 2023	Brad Gottfried	<i>Lee in the Gettysburg Campaign</i>
11 APR 2023		<i>**To Be Announced**</i>
9 MAY 2023	Scott Mingus	<i>Lincoln's Funeral Train in Pennsylvania</i>

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!!

Giannotti's has raised the prices for the meals at our meetings. The price will now be \$31.00.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, September 13, 2022
Meeting & Program:

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

Broiled Haddock
Grilled Chicken with Rice
Eggplant Parmesan

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, September 9, 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!)