

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2018



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

And so, "Silent Sam" is laid low. The 105-year old fixture on the University of North Carolina campus in Chapel Hill was brought down by a chanting mob, the latest in Confederate iconography to suffer from death by political correctness.

Yet, upon reflection, it seems somewhat difficult to object to the razing a timeworn monument to history that was born during a period of systemic racism and which was dedicated with words of intolerance.

According to the *Charlotte Observer*, the monument dedication began nobly enough with stirring words from Governor Locke Craig who claimed, "Ours is the task to build a State worthy of all patriotism and heroic deeds, a State that demands justice for herself and all her people, a State sounding with the music of victorious industry, a State whose awakened conscience shall lead the State to evolve from the forces of progress a new social order, with finer development for all conditions and classes of our people."

Yet Governor Craig's words were eclipsed by those of Confederate veteran and post-war industrialist Julian Carr. In a stemwinder of a speech that rivaled that of Edward Everett at Gettysburg 50 years earlier, Carr betrayed his feelings when he spoke in language that is difficult for us to hear today:

"The present generation, I am persuaded, scarcely takes note of what the Confederate soldier meant to the welfare of the Anglo Saxon race during the four years immediately succeeding the war, when the facts are, that their courage and steadfastness saved the very life of the Anglo Saxon race in the South - When "the bottom rail was on top" all over the Southern states, and to-day, as a consequence the purest strain of the Anglo Saxon is to be found in the 13 Southern States - Praise God.

"I trust I may be pardoned for one allusion, howbeit it is rather personal. One hundred yards from where we stand, less than ninety days perhaps after my return from Appomattox, I horse-whipped a negro wench until her skirts hung in shreds, because upon the streets of this quiet village she had publicly insulted and maligned a Southern lady, and then rushed for protection to these University buildings where was stationed a garrison of 100 Federal soldiers. I performed the

pleasing duty in the immediate presence of the entire garrison, and for thirty nights afterwards slept with a double-barrel shot gun under my head."

While I am loathe to see Civil War monuments to those who wore the gray consigned to the dustbin of history, perhaps there are some which, conceived in racism and hate, are better in memory of another time rather than in the reality of today. "Silent Sam" would seem to be an example of the former and his passing can hardly be lamented.

Craig

Round Table Board Meeting

The Board of the First Defenders CWRT met on August 9, 2018, to discuss the upcoming 22nd Campaign. Items for discussion will be presented at the September meeting. Please see Linda Zeiber, Recording Secretary, if you would like to have the minutes from the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury as of August 9, 2018 of \$2,753.36 of that total \$361.00 is for preservation, leaving a balance of \$2,392.36.

Preservation

Vice President Mark Quattroco reported at the board meeting on the following:

Mark reported the preservation totals at the end of the 21st Campaign are; monies raised \$ 1,931; donations \$ 1,920; Total contributions with matching monies \$ 27,376 and year to date donations by the CWRT equals \$ 256,000.

Mark received "Thank You" letters from the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation, Brandy Station Foundation, The Historical Society of Montgomery County and the Richmond Battlefields.

Current Grants available for Battlefield Preservation include: Seminary Ridge- donation only-no matching funds, Save Three Battlefields- Shilo -Hickenlooper's Battery, Glendale VA- Randall's Battery and Fredericksburg – Latimer's Battery which is a 4/1 match.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little announced as a reminder that the deadline for ordering meals is always Friday at noon before the next scheduled meeting. If you have any problems ordering, please call Kathy. Her number is available in the section for "Dinner Reservations" each month. You should receive two replies by email after making reservations online. If you do not, be sure to let Kathy know by telephone. Your reservations may not have gone through.

September Book Raffle--from Gary Hertzog

As our first meeting of our 22nd campaign arrives we look forward to seeing you all who continue to support our mission and book raffle. We are certainly making a difference in battlefield preservation.

Joe's Jaunts- An Incredible History Journey

Wally Heimbach, Errol Steffy, Ron Emge and I traveled through Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi for two weeks in May on an incredible history journey. There is not enough space to go into much depth, but let me highlight a few and list the other sites you should want to visit.

The absolute "can't miss" is Shiloh Battlefield National Park in TN. The site is well preserved, peaceful and undisturbed by civilization. We had a 2 ½ day guided tour by Tim Smith who is arguably the leading historian and author. He has written several books on Shiloh and related sites and is about to release a new book on Grierson's Raid.

Another must-see site is the battlefield at Franklin, TN. A must is a visit to Carnton and the Confederate cemetery. Franklin and Carnton are deeply moving. While in the area, you should visit The Hermitage, the home of Andrew Jackson. It is a beautiful house and great museum.

The following are all worth seeing if you visit: Stone's River TN, Fort Donelson TN, Parker's Crossroads TN, Natchez Trace TN, Meriwether Lewis Monument TN, Corinth MS, Brice's Crossroads MS, Perryville KY, Old Fort Harrod KY, Daniel Boone's grave KY, Lincoln birthplace KY, J Davis birthplace KY, Louisville Slugger Bat Co. KY and lest I forget, Saltville VA. I know I missed some, but take time and go. Feel free to talk to any of us and we will be pleased to go into detail. **Joe**

Adopt-A-Position

We had a large group for the Spring date and split in two groups in the morning, met for lunch and finished the day at Gregg's monument.

The Fall date to work at our sites at Gettysburg is Thursday, September 27.

We will meet at Lowes at 9 and carpool to Gettysburg or you may meet us at the first work site. We work on several of the sites, have lunch and then work on the remaining sites.

First Defenders has adopted six sites, 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. The two new sites are Buford's Statue and Reynold's Equestrian Statue both on Chambersburg Pike.

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

The fence at Gregg's may need to be painted. Roger Cotterill is the fashionista on dressing for the occasion, but clothing suitable for painting might be your best choice.

We will have eight sites to work on. To accomplish this we need YOU to volunteer, please let Don Stripling ([610-750-3998](tel:610-750-3998)) or Barbara Shafer ([484-336-8995](tel:484-336-8995)) know if you are able to participate.

The purpose of the Adopt-A-Position (AAP) program is for volunteers to maintain the historic setting of the battlefield. Volunteers (VIPs) help by doing field maintenance and labor that otherwise would not be completed due to budget and/or staffing restraints.

VIPs donate time and labor in preserving regimental positions, battery locations, or brigade lines. The Park provides equipment and supplies that are needed for the sites. There isn't any monetary involvement by the volunteer. Individuals and/or groups can volunteer to participate. The criteria is a two-year commitment to work a minimum of one day each during the spring and fall program. The individual or contact representative for a group will arrange a date two weeks before the time that a work party will be at the adopted site. All work at the project site must be pre-arranged with the AAP Gettysburg Park Coordinator, Caitlin Brown at [\(717\) 338-4479](tel:717-338-4479).

Tours

A Stroll Through History” – Charles Evans Cemetery Tours

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table and the Berks History Center are excited to announce their joint “Stroll Through History” tours of the historic Charles Evans Cemetery on Saturday, September 15th.

Charles Evans Cemetery was founded in 1846 by its namesake, Charles Evans, a well-known local lawyer and philanthropist who desired to establish a nonsectarian cemetery. Located on a prominent hilltop, outside of Reading, the cemetery remains a place of natural beauty with well-maintained buildings, trees, shrubbery, and spacious lawns

Since its' founding more than 160 years ago, many prominent and not-so-prominent people, including more than a few Civil War generals and members of the original First Defenders, have found eternal rest in a virtual arboretum of more than 2200 trees and an abundance of flowering shrubs.

90-minute tours begin at 12:30 and 2:30 PM, and a “special” members-only extended tour is scheduled to begin at 4:30 PM. The cost for First Defenders or Berks History Center members is \$5.00. Non-member cost is \$8.00. Proceeds will go to the Charles Evans Cemetery and a Civil War Preservation project selected by the First Defenders.

Leading the tours will be Mark Pflum, a summa cum laude graduate of Kutztown University, with over 30 years of Civil War reenacting experience.

Advance registration is required by contacting the Berks History Center at 610-374-4375, and payment can be made by check or credit card. (Checks can be sent to BHC at 940 Centre Avenue, Reading, PA, 19601.)

Programs

Dave Unger announces the kick-off of the 22nd First Defenders Civil War Roundtable Campaign with guest speaker Chris Mackowski, "Second Guessing Richard Ewell; The First Day at Gettysburg.

September Program

Second Guessing Richard Ewell: The First Day at Gettysburg

55 years later, it still resonates as one of the most second-guessed decisions of the war, a great "what if" or "what might have been." On July 1, 1863, Confederate Lt. Gen. Richard Ewell decided it was not "practicable" to storm the Union position on Cemetery Hill after a hard day of fighting at Gettysburg. As a result, many in the Army of Northern Virginia, the Lost Cause adherents and history itself have scapegoated "Old Baldy" for the Confederate loss in Pennsylvania, and critics have loudly wondered, "If Stonewall Jackson had been there...." But, Ewell made a militarily sound decision—as a look at the facts will show.

Returning for his third program before the First Defenders, 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.

Speakers and Programs for 2018

23rd Campaign

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| October 9 | Ryan Quint | The Battle of Monocacy: In Their Words |
| November 13 | Kevin Pawlak | Antietam Endgame |
| December 11 | Craig Breneiser | The Second Battle of Franklin |

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2018 Meeting:

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for Sept. include: Chicken Mediterranean; Veal Parmesan with Pasta; Haddock with Butter Crumb Top; or Cheese Manicotti with Marinara Sauce. Salad, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 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, Friday, Sept. 7, 2018, 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 Friday 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.**