

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

Summer 2018



www.firstdefenderscwrts.org

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the May meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table to order at 6:15 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on May 8, 2018, for 55 members and guests in attendance. Following a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Member Greg Stull, Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting and urged anyone who had not yet purchased raffle tickets to do so while waiting for dinner to be served.

Following dinner, Craig welcomed everyone and asked if any members not in attendance were ill. It was reported that Roger Cotterill had surgery and is recovering. Ed Ewing was recognized as well. We miss his sharing of his great artifact collection. We send our best to Ed and Joanne.

Chair reports then were given as follows:

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3,034.29 as of May 12, 2018. Last month we took in a total of \$161.00 for preservation giving us a present total of \$361.00 for preservation. Our membership stands at 92. The unencumbered balance as of May's meeting stands at \$2673.29.

Preservation

The 21st Campaign Season has officially come to an end. It is hard to believe another season has come and gone. When it comes to preservation, we had a very successful season. At our May meeting we raised \$167 for preservation and donated \$720. This amount was split amongst the following organizations:

\$200-Gettysburg Foundation to be put toward the Spangler Farm
\$200-Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation
\$120-Brandy Station Foundation
\$100-Richmond Battlefield Foundation
\$100-Historical Society of Montgomery County for Montgomery Cemetery.

During the season we managed to raise a total of \$1931, and we donated \$1920, not including matching grants. Our total contribution with matching grants came to \$27,376.

When it comes to all of the seasons, our total amount donated, not including matching grants, comes to \$32,299, and our total contribution with matching grants comes to \$256,542.

I want to take this opportunity to thank first, all of the members who purchased raffle tickets during the season. Much of the money raised came from the book raffle. In addition, we also had special auctions, flea markets and had it where you can buy books online.

Second, I want to thank all of those who donated money or books.

Third, I would especially like to thank Gary Hertzog for his outstanding work this season running our book raffle. In addition, Gary came up with some great ideas for additional fund raising and these ideas were a great success and helped with achieving the amount we raised for this season. Thanks for all of your hard work. It is truly appreciated.

Well that's all I have for now! See you in September for the start of another season. Have a great summer!

Mark

Meal Captain

Kathy Little thanked everyone for making her job easy this past season. She will remind everyone in the September newsletter about how to order meals and the deadlines.

May Book Raffle

Gary Hertzog provided 14 books that were raffled off during the May meeting. He also had a wide variety of Civil War items for sale. He thanked everyone for buying tickets during the recent campaign as well as for buying books from our online listing.

Programs

Dave Unger announced that speakers are in place for next season with the exceptions of March, April, and May. It seems that we can look forward to more scintillating programs in the new campaign.

Newsletter

Linda Zeiber offered thanks to those who contribute to the newsletter. She thanked Mike Straus for his insightful excerpts from his reading. She also singled out Lisa Breneiser who steps in from time to time taking notes or publishing an occasional newsletter. Thanks were also given to Craig Breneiser for the final edit each month and for putting the newsletter online.

Anyone who wants an item included in the newsletter or has something of special interest to share should email Linda at zeibers@comcast.net or call at 610.678.1168.

Joe's Jaunts-Montgomery Cemetery

Joe Schaffer reported that 23 members met at the Montgomery Cemetery on Saturday, April 28, 2018. The group was given a tour of Montgomery Cemetery in Norristown, Pennsylvania, by one of the members of the Montgomery County Historical Society who own the cemetery.

Those in attendance agreed that the historical society has done and continues to do a fabulous job with the cemetery which had lain in complete neglect for many years. They choose projects for improvement each year and are fortunate to have eager volunteers to help in their endeavor. We were shown two different Eagle Scout projects.

Six Union General officers, including Winfield Scott Hancock and Samuel Zook, are interred in the Montgomery Cemetery along with a large number of other Union veterans. We also heard about the Exeter Train Wreck and visited the graves of veterans killed in that disaster.

Joe discussed future jaunts. The first two have been a great success so stay tuned for more to come.

Election of Officers

With no challengers for any of the offices, Wally Heimbach moved that we retain the current officers for the next campaign. Gerry Zeiber seconded the motion and the membership unanimously accepted the current board to serve another term.

Change is healthy for any organization, and the current officers hope that anyone who would like to serve the round table will discuss it with any one of those currently serving. Most of the offices involve minimal time and effort. Think about becoming active in the future.

Adopt-A-Position

The Spring date to work at our sites at Gettysburg National Park is Thursday, May 31. If you are interested in volunteering, meet at Lowe's parking lot on Rte. 724. Please refer to the March newsletter for the details of this endeavor.

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 if you are able to participate.

The Battle of Williamsport and the Battle of Falling Waters, MD, 155th Anniversary

On Friday evening July 6 at 7 p.m., The Springfield Barn, 12 Springfield Lane, Williamsport, MD, will be the site of a free event commemorating the 155th anniversary of the July 6, 1863 Battle of Williamsport and the July 14, 1863 Battle of Falling Waters, MD.

Speakers include Ted Alexander, George Franks III, and Steve French. There will also be music, relics from the battles, book sales, period re-enactors, and more.

Doors open at 6. For more information, contact Steve French at sfrench52@yahoo.com.

Speakers and Programs for 2018-19

The 23rd Campaign

September 11	Chris Mackowski	<i>Second Guessing Richard Ewell on July 1st at Gettysburg</i>
October 9	Ryan Quint	<i>The Battle of Monocacy: In Their Words</i>
November 13	Kevin Pawlak	<i>Antietam Endgame</i>
December 11	Craig Breneiser	<i>The Second Battle of Franklin</i>
January 8	Mark Quattrock	<i>The U.S. Army Medical Department in the Civil War</i>
February 12	Wally Heimbach	<i>George Gordon Meade</i>
March 12	Jim Lawler	<i>The Sultana Disaster</i>
April 9	Scott Mingus	<i>The Louisiana Tigers at Gettysburg</i>
May 14	Paul Kahan	<i>Ulysses S. Grant & Reconstruction</i>