

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2017, the 21st Campaign



www.firstdefenderscwr.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Every late summer the NASCAR racing circuit enters what has become affectionately known as "silly season." This is a time when rumors abound about the future of drivers, teams, sponsors and the like, and prognosticators go into overdrive attempting to see into the future. They sometimes hit paydirt, but just as often are so far from the truth as to make their predictions laughable (much like weather forecasters, who still get paid no matter how off-the-mark they are).

Well my friends, "Silly Season" has descended upon us all over the past week to such an extent that I have had to start my President's Message anew on a daily (and sometimes more frequent) basis. Individual political biases can color our take on whether the President's public statements in the wake of Charlottesville were sufficiently condemning, and studied consideration can be given to the propriety of removing statues of Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, author of the infamous *Dred Scott* decision, in the dark of night. We can, perhaps, even have a lively discussion whether "Stonewall" Jackson, John Hunt Morgan and the nameless Confederate citizen-soldiers represented by "Old Joe" were patriots or traitors. Every day, we are treated to such a new and increasingly bizarre assault on Civil War iconography that we are dulled by sensory overload.

And then comes the eye-rolling, you-cannot-possibly-be-serious moment that assures us Silly Season is in full swing. ESPN stoically announces the necessity of shuffling a play-by-play announcer from a University of Virginia football game because...wait for it...he shares a name with a Confederate general that some might find offensive. So, Robert Lee will be calling a game in Pittsburgh rather than the Old Dominion.

It seems rather unfathomable the "Marble Man," Robert E. Lee, could ever be viewed with anything other than reverence and respect in Virginia of all places. And, the last time Lee ventured across the Mason-Dixon Line into the Keystone State, his experience was

anything but pleasant and relaxing. Finally, the modern Robert Lee not only has no ties to General Lee or the Confederacy in general, but is, in fact, an Asian American.

We have included some trenchant comments on the current events from some well-known and highly-regarded authors and historians in this issue of the newsletter and soon to be found in *Civil War Times Illustrated*. There are many more such musings appearing in traditional news outlets and Civil War sites almost on a daily basis. These are things which concern us all regardless of our political views because we have an active, healthy interest in the true history of the Civil War period. Take the time to read and consider these views.

By the time you read this, Silly Season will have passed through several more days, stretching our imaginations, patience, reason and sanity. But hopefully the modern Robert Lee will at least return from Pennsylvania with fonder memories than did his namesake 154 years ago.

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

The Board of the First Defenders CWRT met on August 8, 2017, to discuss the upcoming 21st 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.

Membership

It is time to renew your membership for the 21st Campaign. Please complete the enclosed membership form and return it with your check to Dave Sweigert. If you plan on paying your membership dues in person at the September or October meeting, please bring a completed **renewal membership form**. The deadline for payment is October 10, 2017. By becoming a member, your membership dues largely support our speakers. We appreciate your prompt payment.

Guest rates will continue to be \$ 35.00 which includes the meal. If your guest would like to become a member, the \$10 fee will be credited towards the annual membership fee of \$ 25.

Preservation Corner

In November of 2016, the family of the late Dennis Yeager presented a family donation of \$300 to be used towards preservation. The CWRT voted unanimously to donate the money to Barlow's Knoll in Gettysburg.

The CWRT received a letter thanking us for the generous donation. The letter indicated that the 35 acre property was successfully purchased without federal matching money. The acreage is located just a few paces from General Barlow's monument. This land has been on the National Park Service's "wish list" for decades.

Mark Quattrock

EMPTY PEDESTALS: What should be done with the Civil Monuments to the Confederacy and its Leaders?



By Civil War Times Magazine

OCTOBER 2017 • [CIVIL WAR TIMES MAGAZINE](#)

From Charlottesville, Va., to New Orleans, La., the removal of Confederate statues from public spaces and the debates over their removal are making national news. Numerous other Southern communities, large and small, are reconsidering the future of the Southern soldiers in marble and bronze that stand watch over their town squares and courthouses. What will be their fates? So to that end, I asked members of the magazine's advisory board, all highly respected scholars and authors, as well as some other selected authorities, to send us their opinions on Confederate monument removal. Their interesting and thoughtful answers are diverse, and some are likely to be controversial. The removal of Confederate monuments is a complex issue.

Here are a few excerpts from the upcoming article;

William (Jack)C. Davis, Professor of History, retired, Virginia Tech University

In the passionate debate over where—and whether—the Confederacy merits remembrance today, we forget that changing values and demographics have always imperiled past generations' heroes. Nowhere is it written that heroes remain in place for all posterity. Where are the statues of George III today? New times make new heroes. Before 1968 there were no Martin Luther King Boulevards; today there are hundreds.

Removing statues in New Orleans and elsewhere is unfortunate, however understandable. Occasionally circumstances demand change. Nathan Bedford Forrest High School in Jacksonville, Fla., was all-white in 1959. By 2014 it had a substantial black student population. African Americans attending a school honoring a slave dealer (and possible abettor of the "Fort Pillow Massacre") was too surreal to be ignored.

Confederates represent a part of our history. Judge past figures by today's values, and our Capitol's "Statuary Hall" would become "Empty Pedestal Hall." Instead, consider Budapest's Memento Park. Rather than destroy statuary from the Communist era, the city moved it into one park as a "monument" to democracy's triumph.

"Lost Cause" mythology claims that Confederates seceded over self-determination. Ironically, as local populations today reevaluate who to memorialize, that argument is ascendant. Urban demographics will continue to shift, along with popular will, meaning that in the future if the people so desire, Davis and Lee may march back into town.

D. Scott Hartwig, Supervisory Historian, retired, Gettysburg National Military Park

We are all aware that the legacy of our Civil War and Reconstruction is complex, controversial, and for some, painful. I can understand the anger residents of New Orleans

might feel about a monument in the heart of their city commemorating and celebrating an 1866 massacre of black citizens who were simply demonstrating for the right to vote. It was a constant reminder of a white supremacist society and I sympathize with the city's decision to remove it.

Monument removal, however, becomes more problematic when we apply it to any monument or memorial associated with the Confederacy, as if by removing these symbols we can somehow repair the past and heal wounds. But does it? It seems more likely to heal one wound and open another. A better solution to tearing down Confederate monuments is the example of the Arthur Ashe monument on Monument Avenue in Richmond. Ashe's monument reminds visitors and residents that Richmond's history is complicated and more than just the memory of the Confederacy and its leaders. Rather than tear down monuments, build new ones, where appropriate, that tell the story of those who struggled bravely for freedom and equality.

Robert K. Krick, Noted Speaker on Civil War topics, Author of Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain

We live in an age riven by shrill and intemperate voices, from all perspectives and on most topics. No sane person today would embrace, endorse, or tolerate slavery.

A casual observer, readily able to convince himself that he would have behaved similarly in the 1860s, can vault to high moral ground with the greatest of ease. Doing that gratifies the powerful self-righteous strain that runs through all of us, for better or worse. In fact, it leaps far ahead of the Federal politicians (Lincoln among them) who said emphatically that slavery was not the issue, and millions of Northern soldiers who fought, bled, and died in windrows to save the Union—but were noisily offended by mid-war emancipation.

It is impossible to imagine a United States in the current atmosphere that does not include zealots eager to obliterate any culture not precisely their own, destroying monuments in the fashion of Soviets after a purge, and antiquities in the manner of ISIS. The trend is redolent of the misery that inundated the planet during the aptly named Dark Ages, arising from savages who believed, as a matter of religion in that instance, that anyone with opinions different than their own was not just wrong, but craven and evil, and must be brutalized into conformity.

On the other hand, a generous proportion of the country now, and always, eschews extremism, and embraces tolerance of others' cultures and inheritances and beliefs. Such folk will be society's salvation.

**September Program; Author & Historian:
Dennis Frye**

“Did McClellan Out-Think Lee During The 1st Invasion?”

We often laugh when we think of George McClellan. We enjoy making McClellan the Union's whipping boy. McClellan, himself, brings little sympathy to his cause. Full of bravado, often arrogant, and sometimes insubordinate, McClellan is the general we like to dislike. We chuckle when he claimed, following the first invasion of the North, that it was the second time he had saved the North.

Yet when Robert E. Lee was asked after the war who was the best Union general he faced, he responded with George McClellan.

Was McClellan as incompetent and ineffective as history has branded him? Discover some answers as we ask: "Did McClellan out-think Lee during the 1st Invasion?"

Dennis E. Frye is the Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Writer, lecturer, guide, and preservationist, Dennis is a prominent Civil War historian. Dennis has numerous appearances on PBS, The History Channel, The Discovery Channel, C-SPAN, Fox News, A&E, and Voice of America as a guest historian. He helped produce Emmy award-winning television features on the Battle of Antietam, abolitionist John Brown, and Maryland during the Civil War. Dennis is one of the nation's leading Civil War battlefield preservationists. He is co-founder and first president of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and he is co-founder and a former president of today's Civil War Trust, from whom he received the Trust's highest honor - the Shelby Foote Award. Dennis also is a well-known author, with 98 articles and nine books. Harpers Ferry Under Fire received the national book of the year award from the Association of Partners for Public Lands; and September Suspense: Lincoln's Union in Peril, was awarded the 2012 Laney Book Prize for distinguished scholarship and writing on the military and political history of the war. Dennis has written for prestigious Civil War magazines such as Civil War Times Illustrated, America's Civil War, Blue & Gray Magazine, North and South Magazine, and Hallowed Ground, and as a guest contributor to the Washington Post. Dennis resides near the Antietam Battlefield in Maryland, and he and his wife Sylvia have restored the home that was used by General Burnside as his post-Antietam headquarters.

Bob Shuman Update

A card shower would surely be appreciated for Bob. He is currently at Laurel Nursing Home, 125 Holly Rd. Room 326, Hamburg, PA 19526 and still on a ventilator. They are continuing to try and wean him off of the ventilator, but have not been unsuccessful as of this printing. Please keep Bob and Pauline in your thoughts and prayers.

Adopt-A-Position

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.

The Fall date to work at our sites at Gettysburg National Park is Thursday, October 5.

We will meet at Lowes around 9 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 has adopted four 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.

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

The 6th PA Cavalry fence will 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 six 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 of your interest. We may also be able to have a Ranger give a talk about a site or the Park.

Dinner Reservations for Tuesday, September 12, 2017

If possible please make your meal choices on the website.

Our meal choices for September include:

1. Grilled Chicken Bruschetta;
2. Grilled Pork Chop with Sauteed Apples;
3. Butter Crumb Flounder with Scampi Sauce; or
4. Cheese Ravioli 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. 8, 2017, 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 CWRT 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.**



Newsletter Contact: Linda Zieber, ziebers@comcast.net

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October 2017



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The book has received polarized reviews. It is a score-settling jubilee. It is a rant that veers between regret and righteousness, and is an extended defense of a political style. It has been called an apologia for a failure that should not have been.

The reviews are in, and, SURPRISE!, *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*, garners only a "B" rating even from its most sympathetic readers. It seems Hillary Clinton is not the first to explain away a loss and fix blame on the reasons for it in print. That honor may belong to Jefferson Davis.

Davis would require 1,500 pages spread out over two volumes to tell his story (Secretary Clinton managed to keep hers to a more modest single 512-page tome). Then, as now, the work found favor with supporters while being panned by at least one academic as, "perhaps the longest, most turgid, and most self-righteous defense of a failed political cause ever written by an American." For anyone who has tried to read it for the sake of enjoyment, there is near-universal agreement that root canal may be more enjoyable and less painful. Davis in prose is as bland as Davis in person.

The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government promotes the view the Southern struggle for independence was as honorable and righteous as the fight for American independence 85 years prior. In legalistic prose that would be an anathema today, Davis defends the morality and goodness of slavery and the hypocrisy of Northerners who also once embraced servitude while continuing to profit from it to the detriment of the Southern planters. He excoriates Abraham Lincoln's duplicity in opposing American involvement in Mexico's right to self-govern while using armed force against a similar effort by the Confederacy. (Davis also blames Lincoln for "forcing" the South to fire on Fort Sumter.)

Unlike Secretary Clinton, Jefferson Davis did not go on an extended book tour, conduct media interviews or schedule speaking engagements. In fact, while *What Happened* sold more than 300,000 copies in less than a week, *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government* would sell a mere 22,000 copies in the nine years following its publication in 1881.

Jefferson Davis had hoped his effort would provide a measure of financial security for himself and his family in their declining years, but he would have to file a

lawsuit against the publisher that would only be settled after his death to even provide a modest income for his widow. He also hoped it would serve as a defense of the Southern cause and define its place in history. And, while Davis may have been among the first to write about a lost cause, he would not be the last.

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the September meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on September 12, 2017. Greg Stull offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance for the 67 members and guests present. Following dinner and a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" for our friend, guest and speaker, Dennis Frye, Craig began the business meeting reminding everyone of member Bob Shuman who remains in a nursing facility in Hamburg, PA. Bob's current address is given in the September newsletter for those who would like to send a card or note. Introduction of new members guests was next on the agenda. Craig also informed us that Don Stripling experienced cardiac problems over the summer and now has several stents resolving the issue. He is currently in cardiac rehab and expects to be in Gettysburg in October for the AAP work day.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy presented his report at the September meeting. Our balance as of September 20, 2017, stood at \$ 3731.32 with \$204 ear-marked for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of September 20, 2017, is \$3527.32.

Preservation

Mark Quattroch thanked the membership for supporting preservation through tickets sold for the book raffle. He noted that contributions have totaled \$99,000 for land preservation over the past years. He announced eight current locations that are seeking donations. Mark made a motion to send \$200.00 to Gettysburg to help with the Oak Ridge initiative. He also announced that there is no new news about Camp Letterman and that the plans for a casino have once again fallen through.

Mark distributed the polo shirts and name tags that had been ordered last season.

****On a personal note, I would like to thank Mark for his work in researching and ordering these items for us. The shirts are great-looking and will be an asset as members wear them proudly bearing our logo and the celebration of our 20th year. L. Z.**

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer announced that the fall "jaunt" is scheduled for November 4, 2017. Final details are still being worked on. He will give more information at the October meeting.

Joe also made a pitch for the importance of enlisting new members to the round table. He reminded us that there are no limits on membership since we have been meeting at the Inn at Reading. Everyone needs to understand that the money paid for meals goes entirely to the Inn for our dinners. All raffle money is used for battlefield preservation. Membership dues pay our speaker fees. If membership remains stagnant, dues will need to be increased in order to pay for speakers. Everyone can help in the enlistment of new members. It is essential for our survival to do so.

Programs

Dave Unger reported that most of the speakers for the current campaign are now in place. The membership is currently 58 which is well under our usual strength. Steve French will speak about McNeill's Raiders in October. Greg Stull has agreed to speak about Leonidas Polk at Perryville for the December meeting. In February, David Ward will speak about the 96th PA Volunteer Regiment.

Website

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser reported that work on our website was done over the summer. It is not completely finished but is nearing completion. Changes will be noticed next month when meals are ordered online. The new website looks different from the old one and includes blog posts.

The new site was funded by Craig Breneiser and will have the same address:
www.firstdefenderscwr.us.

AAP

Barbara Shafer announced that Adopt-A-Position volunteers will be meeting on Thursday, October, 2017, at the parking lot at Lowe's on Route 724 at 9 a.m. to travel to Gettysburg to maintain "our" adopted monuments. If you would like to join the group and have never done so, contact Don Stripling or Barbara for additional details. The day always involves more fun than work; it's Gettysburg after all!

Preservation Corner

Welcome to another season as we successfully kicked it off with our September meeting. During the meeting we were able to raise \$163 for Preservation from our book raffle. Thank you to all of those who book tickets or made donations.

In addition, we donated \$200 to the Civil War Trust to put towards a \$10-\$1 Matching Grant to help preserve 2 acres of Oak Ridge in Gettysburg. This makes our Total Contribution to date at \$2000. We are off to a great start for the Season.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank Dennis Frye for all the great compliments he gave us for our Preservation efforts these past 20 seasons. He is a fantastic speaker and

it was a great feeling as he thanked the Roundtable for the money we have donated and made some great comments about why Preservation is important. Thank you Dennis for everything you do and for continuing to come to our Roundtable and present. It is greatly appreciated!

That's all for this month. Until next time!!

Mark Quattrochio

October Program

Presented by Steve French:

"The Kidnapping of the Generals"

This program will relate McNeill Ranger's successful February 1865 capture of Generals Crook and Kelley from their Cumberland, Maryland hotel rooms and their escape into their mountain stronghold fifty miles away. While not as well known as Mosby's Rangers, John Hanson McNeill and his band of irregulars caused the Union military (and the Baltimore Railroad) no small amount of fits. And, while the more illustrious Mosby had one captured general to his credit, "Hanse" McNeill would capture two! This will be an excellent presentation on a subject long overdue for some improved public relations that you won't want to miss! Steve will have several of his books available for purchase, too.

Steve French, a middle school history teacher in Martinsburg, West Virginia, is the author of several Civil War books including Imboden's Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign, for which he received the 2008 Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award and the 2009 Civil War Round Table of Gettysburg Book Award. His most recent book is Rebel Chronicles: Raiders, Scouts, and Train Robbers of the Potomac. French has written over 70 Civil War articles and numerous book reviews that have appeared in such publications as The Washington Times, Gettysburg Magazine and North & South Magazine.

Speakers and Programs for 2017-2018

November 14	Gene Schmeil	General Jacob Cox
December 12	Greg Stull	Leonidas Polk at Perryville
January 9	Dale Kratzer	Naval Schemes, Plots & Interesting Tidbits
February 13	David Ward	69th PA Volunteers
March 13	Wayne Motts	Picketts Charge
	Jim Hessler	
April 10	TBA	
May 6	Jim Hessler	Sickles at Gettysburg

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, October 10, 2017 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for October include: Chicken Parmesan; Smoked Country Style Sausage with onion gravy; Potato Crusted Cod with dill cream sauce; or Rigatoni with zesty vegetable marinara sauce. Salad, soup, 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 a 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, October 6, 2017, 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.

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Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Flexibility. I've learned a lot about this word over the past few weeks. My life has never really been "routine" because of my work in emergency services fields, but I have recently had a run of days where my best-laid plans were laid to waste by 8:05 (well, okay, one day I actually kept on track until almost 8:15!).

Placing this in perspective, I reflected on Civil War luminaries who found the need to be flexible as their plans went awry. Sometimes they managed to adjust like George Meade on the second day at Gettysburg or Ulysses Grant throughout the Overland Campaign. Stonewall Jackson displayed flexibility west of Chancellorsville when he found the Union troops were not where he supposed them to be, and Robert E. Lee spent the Seven Days Campaign with his plans repeatedly miscarrying but exhibiting the flexibility to recover and achieve a dazzling strategic victory by forcing George McClellan to "change his base" well away from Richmond.

Of course, there were those who proved to be unable to exhibit any flexibility in their thinking. John Pope was absolutely certain the Confederates were in retreat at Second Manassas despite warnings to the contrary; James Longstreet's crushing flank assault proved him wrong. William Rosecrans was having his own way with Braxton Bragg at Chickamauga right up until one bad order resulted in a Rebel breakthrough that "stunned Rosecrans, like a duck hit on the head" (according to Abraham Lincoln).

Perhaps it was Lincoln himself who would prove to be the master of flexibility as he threaded his way through the early days of the war, outflanked supposedly wiser and more experienced political minds, backed or sacked generals despite the public and media clamor to the contrary and would seize upon precisely the right moment to change the character of the War by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. Just before signing the final Proclamation on New Years Day 1863, Lincoln would define flexibility for Congress when we wrote, "the dogmas of the quiet past, are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise -- with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country."

While none of us may encounter a mountain as high as that faced by Lincoln, we do need to recognize our own "dogmas of the quiet past, are inadequate to the stormy present" and we need to "think anew, and act anew" to meet life's challenges. We must strive to remain as flexible as grain before the storm, or we will break as surely as a dry twig. So, stay loose, my friends!

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the October meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on October 10, 2017. Ev Binns offered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 59 members present. Craig asked for information regarding members who may be ill, and Dave Fox reported that he had spoken to Bob Shuman's wife Pauline recently.

Bob remains in a nursing facility in Hamburg, PA. Bob's current address is Laurel Nursing Home at 125 Holly Road, Hamburg, PA 19526, Room 326 N. Pauline assures everyone that all cards and notes are greatly appreciated.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report Tim Antosy presented his report at the October meeting. Our balance as of October 12, 2017 stood at \$ 4,364.38 with \$394.00 ear-marked for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of October 18, 2017, is \$3,970.38 with 80 members paid.

Preservation

Mark Quattroch reviewed initiatives for preservation at the current time as well as leverages available. He reported that over 20 years, total contributions to land preservation as of the 10th of October amount to \$30,571. With matching grants, the total rises to \$230,933. We have already gotten to \$2,000 in contributions this year.

Membership

Dave Sweigert reported 11 re-enlistments at the October meeting bringing membership to a total of 80. This is well below our usual number by this point in a new campaign. Dave reminded everyone that you will not be able to make a reservation for the November meeting if you have not paid your annual membership fee.

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer announced that the fall "jaunt" scheduled for November has been cancelled. He suggested that there may be two jaunts in the spring. Stay tuned.

Website

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser reported that work on our website is not completely finished but is nearing completion. Lisa explained that, in addition to blogs, we can now tell how many "hits" have occurred on the site. The new site was funded by Craig Breneiser and will have the same address: www.firstdefenderscwr.us.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone that the deadline for ordering meals is Friday at noon before the next meeting. If you have any problems ordering, please call Kathy. Her number is available in the section for Dinner Reservations.

AAP

We had a gorgeous work day for AAP on Thursday, October 5 at Gettysburg National Park.

Roger Cotterill, Gary Hertzog, Rick Hostetter, Barbara Shafer and Don Stripling met at Benning's Brigade (TX) on South Confederate. The next monument we worked at was 18th PA Cavalry located at Big Round Top. We then worked at WV 1st Cav (Farnsworth) and took a lunch break.

After lunch we worked at the 6th PA Cavalry. We painted the fence posts and a section of the fence at Greggs Shaft on East Cavalry Field. Our last monument was the 8th PA Cavalry.

All of the sites looked much improved with our effort.

We did look at another site for a future adoption.

Our next work date will be in the Spring of 2018. We will be painting Greggs Shaft so you will again have an opportunity to see our fashionista, Roger Cotterill, dressing for the occasion.

Individuals and/or groups can volunteer to participate in AAP. 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 Coordinator. The coordinator at Gettysburg Park is: Alyce Evans at (717) 338-4479.

If you would like a current list of sites to adopt you can contact contact Alyce at Gettysburg National Military Park.

Submitted by Barbara Shafer



Remembrance Day Weekend in Gettysburg

If you have never spent a Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, you owe it to yourself to make the sojourn. Sunday morning, November 19th, will feature a ceremony in the National Cemetery commemorating Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. New citizens will be sworn in, and a speaker of renown will deliver a keynote address. The ceremony is quite moving from beginning to end.

Saturday, November 18th features a parade of reenactor units from far and wide. It seems that the parade grows each year. There are many other events throughout the weekend which are detailed on the Gettysburg website.

Flags adorn each grave in the cemetery in the daylight and are exchanged for luminaries at night.



November Program

General Jacob Dolson Cox - Citizen General

Jacob Dolson Cox is one of the most exceptional leaders of the Union Civil War effort who is almost unknown. However, author Gene Schmiel has



turned a spotlight on Cox in an effort to give him his long-deserved recognition. Serving in both major theaters of the war, Cox would come to be replied upon by more stellar lights such as George McClellan, William Sherman and Ulysses Grant (none of whom were particularly fond of citizen political generals). Cox would be the tactical commander on the Union left at Antietam, and would find later find himself on the road to Atlanta with Sherman and in command of the Union center at Franklin. His post-war career looked golden, but his tepid support of Reconstruction and endorsement of civil serve reforms before the time was ripe would relegate him to the might-have beens in American politics. In citizen pursuits, though, he would find success as

the president of the Wabash Railroad, dean of the Cincinnati Law School and president of the University of Cincinnati. Perhaps his most last legacy were his *Military Reminiscences*, an even-handed work that is still frequently used as a primary source by modern historians.

Gene Schmiel is a retired Foreign Service Officer and former Assistant Professor of History. He received his Ph.D. in History from the Ohio State University, and has taught at St. Francis University (Pa), as well as Marymount and Shenandoah Universities in Virginia. In addition to his interest in general Cox, Mr. Schmiel is active in theater in his local area.

Speakers and Programs for 2017-2018

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	Jim Hessler	
April 10	TBA	
May 6	Jim Hessler	Sickles at Gettysburg

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, November 14, 2017 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for November include: Stuffed Turkey with cornbread stuffing; Honey Roasted Ham with grilled pineapple sauce; Seafood Pot Pie; or Vegetable Penne with vodka sauce. Soup, 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 a 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, November 10, 2017, 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.**

Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

December 2017



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanksgiving. A time to give thanks which, as we learned in elementary school, began way back in 1621 when the Pilgrims first took time to express their appreciation to God for seeing them through the trials and tribulations of the previous year.

It was nearly 170 years later when George Washington made the first presidential Thanksgiving proclamation in November 1789. By then, the first rudimentary settlements in the New World had officially become the United States of America, and most Americans were certain they had been especially blessed by Providence.

The Father of Our Country could hardly have anticipated that only seven decades in the future there would be "dueling" proclamations for thanks from competing presidents of the nation he had sired:

- **November 15, 1861:** Jefferson Davis calls for a "Day of Fasting & Humiliation" seeking Divine support for, "...victory over our enemies, preserve our homes and altars from pollution and secure to us the restoration of peace and prosperity."
- **April 10, 1862:** Abraham Lincoln proclaims thanksgiving for his people to, "...reverently invoke the divine guidance for our national counsels, to the end that they may speedily result in the restoration of peace, harmony and unity throughout our borders and hasten the establishment of fraternal relations among all the countries of the earth."
- **September 18, 1862:** Jefferson Davis calls for a day of thanksgiving so that, "...we should bow down in adoring thankfulness to that gracious God who has been our bulwark and defense, and to offer unto him the tribute of thanksgiving and praise."
- **August 6, 1863:** Abraham Lincoln again proclaims a day of thanksgiving, "...for augmented confidence that the Union of these States will be maintained, their Constitution preserved and their peace and prosperity permanently restored."

It would be Father Abraham who would finally have the last word on Thanksgiving when on October 3, 1863 he would call, "...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our benevolent Father who dwelleth in the heavens...with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience...and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the divine purpose, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and union."

Leading lights of the age knew where to seek help for a distressed people and to whom thanksgiving was due. Perhaps it is time to forsake football and turkey and again focus on the time-honored way to seek "peace, harmony, tranquility and union."

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the November meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on November 14, 2017. Everyone was reminded to buy raffle tickets and note that the 12-volume set, *The Rebellion Record*, published in 1868, was being auctioned in addition to the usual assortment of books. At 7:10 p.m., Craig offered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance for the 53 members present.

Two new members were welcomed bringing the total membership to 87 for the current campaign. Craig reported that Membership chair Dave Sweigert is having major surgery on November 22nd. We wish him and Ev Binns, who's been experiencing respiratory problems, speedy recoveries. We hope to see both Dave and Ev soon.

Preservation

The November meeting has come and gone and we raised another \$231 for Preservation. Of this, \$156 came from the Book Raffle and \$75 came from a Silent Auction for the Rebellion Records Series of books. Thanks to all of you who purchased tickets for the book raffle and who made bids for the Silent Auction. Your support continues to be greatly appreciated.

The Civil War Trust came out with a Matching Grant of **\$14.10-\$1** to save 1053 acres across 7 Battlefields. They are: Brice's Crossroads, MS, Cedar Creek, VA, Champion Hill, MS, Corinth, MS, Monocacy, MD, Second Deep Bottom, VA and Prairie D'Ane, AR. The membership approved donating **\$200** towards this grant making our Total Contribution **\$2820**.

Here are the updated Preservation totals:

Season 21

Total Amount Raised: **\$584**

Total Amount Donated without Matching Grants: **\$400**

Total Contribution with Matching Grants: **\$4820**

All Seasons(to present)

Total Donated without Matching Grants: **\$30,779**

Total Contribution with Matching Grants: **\$233,753**

Mark Quattrock

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy presented his report at the November meeting. Our balance as of November 15, 2017, stood at \$ 4,238.43 with \$425.00 ear-marked for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of November 15, 2017, is \$3,818.43 with 87 members paid. Thanks to the membership. The book auction brought in \$75.00--all of it for preservation. Thank you.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone that the deadline for ordering meals is Friday at noon before the next meeting. If you have any problems ordering, please call Kathy. Her number is available in the section for Dinner Reservations.

Newsletter

Linda Zeiber reported the deadline for the December newsletter is November 21st. The deadline is always one week following each meeting. Everyone has done a great job in submitting articles promptly for the December edition.

Book Raffle

There will be another special auction at December's meeting of *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War* published in 1884. This set of 4 volumes is in excellent condition and would be a great addition to anyone's library. Gary Hertzog reports an abundance of books in his possession and is considering listing titles on our website where books could be purchased for \$5.00 each. All money raised will be put into our preservation fund.

Remembrance Day Weekend in Gettysburg 2017

In last month's newsletter, I urged everyone who had never attended a Remembrance Day weekend to do so since the experience is unique and moving...a must-see for Civil War and Gettysburg students. This past Remembrance Day weekend was a totally new experience for me. The political upheaval which is disrupting life in American has arrived in Gettysburg.

The Gettysburg Times had received a credible, threatening letter, the contents of which were not divulged but to authorities. Visitors and reenactors were warned to be vigilant and report any suspicious items or activities. Park Service, FBI, ATF, and various police descended on our beloved town.

Friday's disruptive event involved a Confederate/Nazi flag burning in front of the Adams County Courthouse. While a reporter from the *Gettysburg Times* described a "crowd" present, the number was around 40 people which included local authorities. No obvious press presence was probably responsible for a quick dispersal of participants and passersby.

The parade scheduled for Saturday was halved in length so that police could concentrate their presence along the route. All side streets along Baltimore Street from the Gettysburg Middle School to the Park entrance on Steinwehr were blocked off with snow plows, dump trucks, police cars and vans, and any other large vehicles which prevented vehicles access to Baltimore Street. Snipers were present on top of the 1863

Inn! Mother Nature stepped in to lend a hand with several hours of pouring rain. Many reenactors chose to skip the parade, but a surprising number of spectators cheered on the hearty participants who marched during that driving and bone-chilling rain.

Of course, the luminaries in the cemetery were cancelled because of the wind and rain; however, the Dedication Service in the National Cemetery went on Sunday morning as scheduled with dry skies and much security. Keynote Speaker and Lincoln Scholar Harold Holtzer gave an insightful address about monument destruction. Everyone interested in retaining or destroying monuments should have heard to his wise words.

This is the new reality that I fear we will experience in the future. The weekend has never been about "celebration"--rather somber reflection and memory to honor those who fought, died, and lived in Gettysburg in 1863. Those forces who would choose to wipeout memory of our past will no doubt keep showing up. Despite all of it, I have made my reservations for next November!

Linda Zeiber

From Correspondent Mike Straus--

Reenlistment Incentives
Strawberry Plains, Tennessee
29 Dec '63

Our brigade has camped for a few days near a railroad bridge at the Tennessee River. Last June, this bridge was destroyed by our cavalry, and we must rapidly work on it in order to rebuild it.

Our soldiers have arduous work, because they must carry all the wood a long way to the construction site- such work would be better suited to a team of six mules than to poor soldiers. But a mule would be ruined, they cannot be used so hard.

We are also deficiently supplied with food. Lately they supply us with almost nothing but corn meal containing the husks that one normally separates from the meal before feeding it to the swine. Bacon, without which nothing can be done with the corn meal, is given to us in such small quantities that it is hardly worth the effort.- So it is also with the coffee and salt, the last article we must sometimes buy ourselves, and at high prices.

It is not only about the lack of food about which we have to complain, but also clothing.- We departed from Chattanooga with completely tore up shoes, socks, shirts, etc., and have received nothing since then other than a single time several pairs of shoes, socks, pants and shirts, barely a tenth of what is needed by a regiment. Most of us were obliged to buy shoes and socks and pay outrageous prices.

They do not seem concerned about us at all. We must do our duty, whether we stand barefoot in our torn up shoes or not, whether we lack an overcoat or cover to protect us from the cold and rain day or night. Our tents have been worn out for a long time, so they barely protect us against the wind, let alone against storms. Getting new ones is not being taken care of and if we requisition new ones then we are responsible for paying for them ourselves.

Today the various orders regarding re-enlistment were first read to us by Colonel Erdelmeyer. There is opportunity until the 5th of next month, for all who intend to serve to notify company commanders.

Gallant Dutchmen
Civil War Letters from the 32nd Indiana
Pages 167-8
August Willich

December Program

October 8, 1862- Perryville-The Battle That Wasn't Supposed to Be

As the summer of 1863 waned, the two major armies of the fledgling Confederacy go on the offensive. One, the Army of Northern Virginia led by the indelible Robert E. Lee, begins what has become known as the Maryland Campaign. The other, the Army of Mississippi, led by a new general, Braxton Bragg, initiates his Kentucky Campaign. Both campaigns will test the mettle of the armies and men involved. Heroes will be created, mistakes will be made and for one general his ability and tactics tested.

The Maryland Campaign of Robert E. Lee culminates with the tactical draw at Sharpsburg, and has been heavily researched and reported. But, what of the other major campaign? What do you know of the Kentucky Campaign, other than the Battle of Perryville coming three weeks after Lee's return to Virginia?

First Defender Greg Stull will give an overview of the planned Kentucky Campaign and another unplanned battle which, much like Sharpsburg, wasn't supposed to happen.

Greg Stull has had a lifelong interest in the War for Southern Independence. He grew up listening to the rich family history being told by relatives during summer visits to his grandparent's home in Mississippi and his aunt's farm in Tennessee. He is a descendant of Leonidas Polk, the Fighting Bishop, through his mother, and also had relatives that fought with the 1st Tennessee Cavalry. In addition to relatives on his mother's side fighting in the western campaign he also had relatives on his father's side with the 27th & 22nd Virginia infantry regiments as well as a few on Yankee side with the 6th & 7th Maryland infantry units.

Greg and wife Sherri have four children and two grandchildren (their youngest son is currently serving proudly with the 173rd Airborne). He is also a Lutheran Lay Minister and is employed as an engineer for a steel company. In his spare time, Greg is a member of the SCV, Meredith Poole Camp. He and his wife are also active members of Lee's Lts Army of Northern Va, living history group as well as with the 21st NC

Reenactor group. As living historians, Greg and his wife portray Francis and Lt. General Leonidas Polk. With the 21st NC, they both take the field as privates. Greg has given many speeches in first person as Gen Polk over the years at Round Tables (this is his second for the First Defenders!) and organized re-enactments.



Speakers and Programs for 2017-2018

January 9	Dale Kratzer: "Naval Schemes, Plots & Interesting Tidbits"
February 13	David Ward: "96th PA Volunteers"
March 13	Wayne Motts & Jim Hessler: "Pickett's Charge"
April 10	Ed Bearss: "Shiloh"
May 6	Jim Hessler "Sickles at Gettysburg"

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, December 12, 2017 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservation on the website. Our meal choices for December include: Chicken Cordon Bleu; Roasted Pork Loin with raspberry sauce; Stuffed Flounder; or Linguini Forno with fresh vegetables tossed in garlic sauce and pasta. Soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

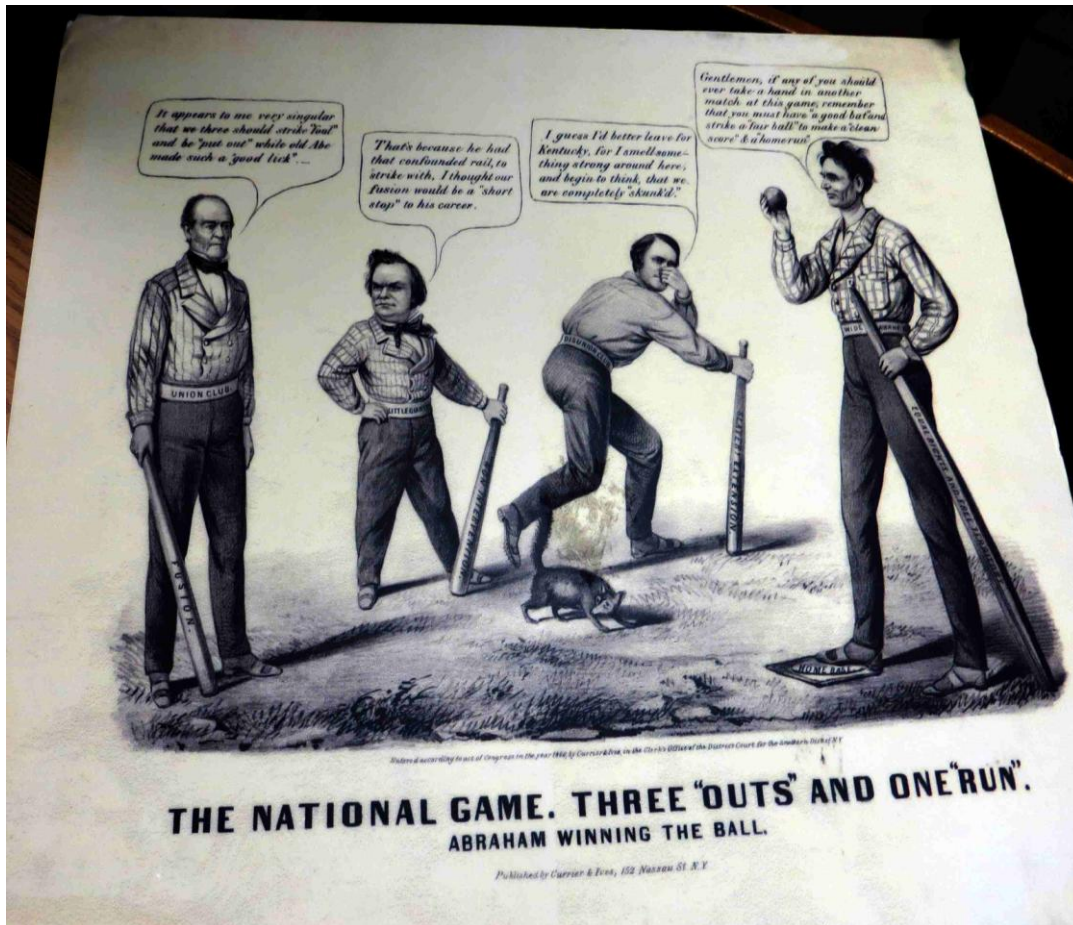
If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or a confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon Friday, December 8, 2017, which is also the deadline 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.

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Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net





The Election of 1860 gave rise to the above political baseball cartoon. Joe Schaeffer, Ron Emge, Wally Heimbach, and Errol Steffy took a "jaunt" to the Baseball Hall of Fame recently and were given a behind-the-scenes tour which included viewing this original document. Thanks, Errol, for sharing this with us!

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

January 2018



www.firstdefenderscwr.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the film "Lincoln," Tommy Lee Jones turned in a tour de force performance as the sharp-witted and even sharper-tongued Congressman Thaddeus Stevens. At one point, he refers to Ohio representative (and George McClellan's 1864 running mater) George Pendleton as, "...proof that some men *are* inferior, endowed by their creator with dim wits, impermeable to reason, with cold, pallid slime in their veins."

Jones and his scriptwriters were not far off the mark portraying Stevens who once paused a speech on the House floor saying, "I yield to the gentleman for a few feeble remarks." On another occasion he described a pro-slavery congressman by saying, "There are some reptiles so flat that the common foot of man cannot crush them. And, in perhaps one of the most brazen comments ever recorded in the House, Stevens exclaimed, "Mr. Speaker, it will not be expected of me to notice the thing which has crawled into this House and adheres to one of the seats by its own slime."

Fifteen decades removed, we can snicker at Stevens' rapier-like sarcasm. We have, after all, grown accustomed to society's luminaries making profound (and not-so-profound) remarks. Communications advances have only provided an easier way to sound off. The technologies even extend to we commoners who now have an outlet to say whatever we like. As often as not, what we say finds its way to so-called friends or other folks who are only too happy to tell us how dumb we really are because we shared something with which they found fault. Apparently, we have forgotten Abraham Lincoln's admonition that "it is better to remain silent and thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt."

I, for one, have opted to excuse myself from this uncivil discourse, and my Facebook account has gone forever dark. In this time of joy, peace and resolutions for the future, I choose face-to-face conversation where different opinions can be reasonably exchanged and clicking the "unfriend" button is not an option. Perhaps by talking TO each other instead of AT each other we can avoid more static and make a positive difference in our world.

I do have to admit, though, I would have subscribed to Thaddeus Stevens' Twitter account.

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the December meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table to order at 6:20 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on December 12, 2017, for 65 members in attendance. Gary Hertzog, book raffle chair, announced the special silent auction for the first edition *Civil War Leaders and Battles*, published 1884-1888. He reminded all of us that the books are a good investment as well as a must for Civil War libraries. The minimum bid stood at \$151.00. Greg Stull, member and speaker for the evening, offered two prayers--one for recently deceased member Bob Shuman and the other for our forthcoming dinner. Craig then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

After dinner, Craig continued the meeting by telling us that prior to Bob Shuman's death, he was to have presented the evening's program about the burning of Chambersburg. Dave Fox had attended services for Bob and shared thoughts about him. Dave had spoken at the service about Bob's love for the First Defenders and reminded us that the old newsletters on the website were contributed by Bob. An interesting story about Bob was about his attendance at the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg as a boy. Bob will be remembered by all of us and missed.

Updates on other members included Dave Sweigert who had recently undergone surgery. Jim Struble had a second hip replacement in early December. We look forward to the return of these gentlemen while welcoming back Ev Binns.

Craig announced that Cate Kennedy was celebrating a birthday this evening. Richard Kennedy, her husband, provided a delicious birthday cake that was enjoyed by all for dessert. We sang "Happy Birthday" to Cate and thank both of them for the bonus festivity of the evening.

Treasurer's Report

Tim Antosy presented his report at the December meeting. Our balance as of December 14, 2017, stood at \$3827.54 with \$434.00 ear-marked for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of December 14, 2017, is \$3,393.54 with 88 members paid. The book auction brought in \$234.00 all of it for preservation.

Preservation

The December Meeting was a big success as we raised another \$330 for Preservation. Of this, \$155 came from the monthly book raffle and another \$175 came from a special silent auction for the Battlefields and Leaders series of books which, were original first editions. I want to take this opportunity to Congratulate all of the winners and to all of you who support our fund raising efforts or who donated money. Your support is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Gary Hertzog who, is doing a great job with the book raffle and coming up with additional ways we can raise money.

During the December meeting the membership approved donating \$400 to the Civil War Trust for a \$33.42 to \$1 Matching Grant. The Trust is seeking to purchase 326 acres that include Second Manassas, North Anna River, New Market Heights

Battlefields. New Market Heights is part of the Petersburg Campaign and not to be confused with New Market Battlefield in the Shenandoah Valley. With the Matching Grant, our Total Contribution for our donation is \$13,368. This brings our Total Contribution for this season to \$18,188.

One other news item is the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation announced they are looking to raise money to save 107 acres of the portion of the Port Republic Battlefield called "the Coaling." It was on this portion of the battlefield where General Lewis Taylor's Louisiana troops charged. They are not currently offering any Matching Grants.

Until next time! Have a safe and Happy Holidays! See you in January!

Mark

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone that the deadline for ordering meals is always Friday at noon before the next meeting. If you have any problems ordering, please call Kathy. Her number is available in the section for Dinner Reservations each month.

Newsletter

Linda Zeiber reported the deadline for the January newsletter was December 19th. The deadline is always one week following each meeting. She thanked everyone for submitted articles, especially Mike Straus for sharing his reading often, and gave a brief update of the unseemly events that occurred during Remembrance Day in Gettysburg this past November.

Book Raffle

Gary Hertzog reported an abundance of books in his possession and has listed titles on our website where books can be purchased outright for \$5.00 each. All money raised will be put into our preservation fund. Ten books were raffled at the December meeting. Thanks to all buyers of tickets.

Programs

Chairperson Dave Unger reported that plans for next year's speakers are already well underway. Thanks to Dave for leading this effort. We also send our best wishes to Dave who is undergoing knee replacement in early January. We wish him a speedy recovery and quick return to the round table.

From Correspondent Mike Straus--

In the early days, when things looked bleak and each day brought the possibility of conflict, patriotism was high, and small towns got things into gear with young men joining the local militia units for drill and learning maneuvers. Then, when Abe would call for the volunteers, usually the whole unit would go as a company to be absorbed together into a

regiment. In this case Oliver Wendell Holmes Upham, obviously named after his uncle, and his pal Frederick M. Osborne from Salem, Massachusetts, joined the Union Drill Club and eventually would go into Co. F, 23rd Massachusetts.

In 1990 these letters were discovered in a safe in Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, but were originally addressed to his mother back in Salem. Frank B. Marcotte was lucky enough to formulate them and present a pretty good story.

Mrs. C.W. Upham, sister of Oliver Wendell Holmes, wrote the following poem for her son who had joined the Union Drill Club.

*Summer 1861
Salem, Massachusetts*

Patriotic Ode

Rally boys! Come forth to fight,
For the Union, Law and Right;
For the Nation's honor, bright,
Let us draw the sword!

By the wrongs vile traitors wrought,
By the ruin they have brought,
Tyranny of deed and thought,
Forward is the word!

See the Northern pride and flower
Gathering in this fateful hour;
Union is our strength and power,-
Let us join the van!
Lay the traitors in the dust;
Die they shall, and die they must;
They have broken every trust,-
Forward every man!

Massachusetts calls to-day,
Beckoning all her sons away;
She no longer brooks delay-
Not a man must lag!
Gird the sword, and join the throng;
Right must triumph over wrong;
In our cause we shall be strong,-
Raise the starry flag!

*Private Osborne,
Massachusetts 23rd Volunteers
Page #35
Osborne Letters by Frank B. Marcotte*

Speakers and Programs for 2018

**February 13
March 13
April 10
May 6**

**David Ward
Wayne Motts & Jim Hessler
Ed Bearss
Jim Hessler**

**96th PA Volunteers
Picketts Charge
Shiloh
Sickles at Gettysburg**

January Program

Naval Schemes, Plots and Interesting Tidbits

While much of the focus of the Civil War is on the land activities, a number of interesting events took place on the water as well. As the title implies this presentation will cover events such as the “first” (?) Navy Seals (Confederate and Union), Confederate chutzpah on the Mississippi, cavalry afloat, the Shimonoseki Campaign in the search for the Alabama, war on the Great Lakes and influence of the Russian Navy, among others.

Dale Kratzer is a long-time member of the First Defenders Round Table. He is a retired water resources engineer with a lifelong interest in the Civil War, and is currently is an adjunct professor at Alvernia University where he teaches courses on the environment. Dale served in the US Navy Civil Engineer Corps with a Seabee Battalion in Vietnam and Puerto Rico (which may help explain his interest in the Navies aspect of the Civil War!). And, while he never authored any Civil War books, he has lectured in Alvernia's Seniors College on Civil War topics. His previous presentation to the First Defenders was on the Battle of Glorietta Pass in New Mexico.



Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, January 9, 2018 Meeting:

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for January include: Chicken Piccata; Grilled Black Angus Meatloaf with mushroom gravy; Broiled Tilapia with lemon butter sauce almandine; Orange Glazed Stir Fry Vegetable Symphony with white rice. Soup, 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, January 5, 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.

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The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2018



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Sarasota, FL) Fake news. A term much in vogue these days, and we recently noted President Trump's "Fake News Awards." Even the Pope has used the term, suggesting, "The Serpent hissed the first fake news in the Garden of Eden."

"Fake news" is really nothing more than a modern term for what is essentially a claim that challenges what one believes and where such contrariness simply cannot be right. The left refers to this as "political correctness" while the right considers it to be "fake news."

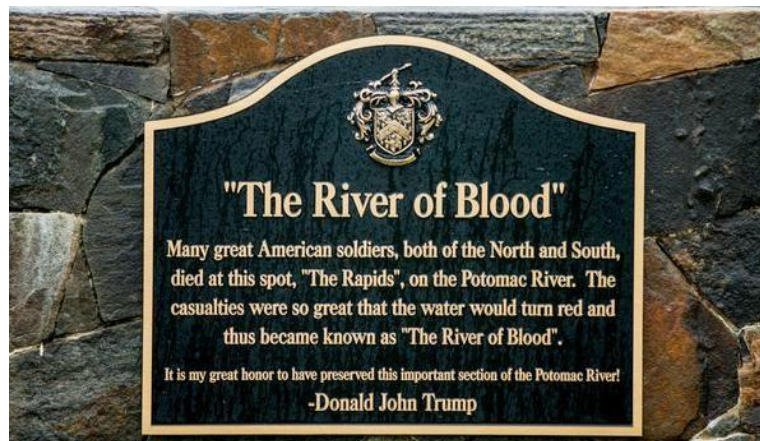
Of greater consequence, however, to folks like us is "fake history." Whereas fake news is more-or-less a matter of opinion or perspective, fake history is an outright attempt to deceive and where these attempts are accepted as historical fact.

For example, take the case of Augustus Buell who wrote extensively about his Civil War career, virtually all of it purloined from the memoirs of others. "The Cannoneer" is still widely read and has been used as primary source material for generations, but is all fake. Most of Buell's writings, and they are extensive, are plagiarized or woven from whole cloth.

Many of us may remember the 1970's film *The Lincoln Conspiracy* (which followed the historical blockbuster *In Search of Noah's Ark*) which posed a number of theories including Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton's complicity in Abraham Lincoln's assassination and that John Wilkes Booth escaped and lived out his life in any number of places. Where evidence was missing it was created, and where exculpatory documents and testimony existed, new documents and testimony appeared to refute them. Though it piqued the interest of many in the post-Watergate era, it was coldly received by historians and has found a rightful, ignominious place with discarded "B List" videotapes.

It is important for future generations that history be articulated as clearly and accurately as possible and without invention, personal aggrandizement or deception. Perhaps a good place to start would be along the banks of the Potomac River at a Loudoun County, Virginia, golf course where a flagpole rises over a bronze plaque with the inscription, "Many great American soldiers, both of the North and South, died at this spot, 'The Rapids,' on the Potomac River. The casualties were so great

that the water would turn red and thus became known as 'The River of Blood.'" Never mind that the closest battle was eleven miles away (Ball's Bluff), there is no historical reference to the Potomac ever being called "the river of blood" and a credible historian is yet to be found to even remotely support the claim.



The plaque, I suppose, says it all, and fake history is now memorialized in bronze. At least a portion of the Potomac River has been nicely preserved.

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the January meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table to order at 6:15 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on January 9, 2018, for 59 members and guests in attendance. He announced that Dale Kratzer would be speaking about naval schemes for the evening's program.

At 7:05 following dinner, Greg Stull offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Vicky Heffner, a guest from the Berks History Center, was introduced. Dave Fox gave an update on Programs Director Dave Unger and Wally Heimbach both of whom recently underwent knee replacements. We look forward to their returns following recuperation.

Treasurer's Report

Tim Antosy presented his report at the January meeting. Our balance as of January 11, 2018, stood at \$4180.00 with \$694.00 ear-marked for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of January 11, 2018, is \$3,486.00 with 89 members paid. The book auction brought in \$260.00 all of it for preservation.

Preservation

Mark Quattroch reported sending a check to the Civil War Trust following last month's meeting. He told us that \$18,000 has been donated so far this campaign for battlefield preservation. This total is a combination of actual dollars sent as well as leverages available which match our donation. Members of our round table are to be congratulated on their generosity through direct donations and purchases of tickets for the monthly book raffle.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone that the deadline for ordering meals is always Friday at noon before the next meeting. If you have any problems ordering, please call Kathy. Her number is available in the section for Dinner Reservations each month.

Book Raffle

Gary Hertzog reported an abundance of books in his possession and has listed titles on our website where books can be purchased outright for \$5.00 each. Gary discussed the future sale of the Time/Life series, *Collectors Library of the Civil War*. He estimates having 25-50 volumes. All money raised will be put into our preservation fund. Ten books were raffled at the January meeting. Thanks to all buyers of tickets.

Membership

Chairperson Dave Sweigert reported that we currently have 88 members. Since we have been meeting at the Inn at Reading, we can accommodate many more members/attendees. Please invite others to join the round table. Membership dues are our only source of income to pay speaker fees.

Web Master

Lisa Breneiser announced that meals for the February meeting would be posted early because of her and Craig's trip to Florida. See the website for ordering meals.

Winter During the War

The winter of 1863 was a quiet season for the war, as severe cold set in. Even so, battles continued at sea and from coast to coast. Hospitals were full of wounded soldiers.

You believe yourselves very generous and think because you have voted this petty sum (to the Ladies' Aid Society) you are doing all that is required of you. But I have in my hospital a hundred poor soldiers who have done more than any of you. Who of you would contribute a leg, an arm or an eye, instead of what you have done? How many hundred or thousand dollars would you consider an equivalent for either? Don't deceive yourselves gentlemen. The poor soldier who has given an arm, a leg or an eye to his country (and many of them have given much more than one) has given more than you have or can. How much more, then, he who has given his life? No! gentlemen, you must set your standard higher yet or you will not come up to the full measure of liberality in giving.

--Mary Ann "Mother" Bickerdyke, address to the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce

From *The Civil War, A Book of Quotations*, edited by Bob Blaisdell

February Program

Schuylkill County's Coal Heavers: The 96th Pennsylvania Volunteers

Originally commanded by Colonel Henry L. Cake, formerly of the National Light Infantry, the 96th Penna Volunteers served for three years in the Second Brigade, First Division of the Sixth Corps of the Army of the Potomac. Principally comprised of War Democrats, the regiment fought with determination at Gaines' Mill, Crampton's Gap, Salem Church and at Spotsylvania on May 10 and again on May 12, 1864. The regiment lost 6 officers and 126 enlisted men -- killed or mortally wounded -- in its three years of service.

This talk will highlight the regiment's military engagements, offer a few quotes regarding the direction of the war and reactions to Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. In addition, the program features quotes from the soldiers of the 96th to describe the generals they served under -- Slocum, Bartlett, Franklin, Brooks, Sedgwick and Upton.



David Ward was born in Pottsville, and graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in 1980 with BA in history. Dave subsequently attended Southern Connecticut State University and graduated with master's degree in history and library science. He has been a professional librarian at New Academy, Livingston, New Jersey, and the assistant library director at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut. Dave founded the Connecticut Civil War Round Table in spring 1989 serving as the program chairman from 1989-1995. He also hosted the New England Civil War Conference June 1990-1992, and was the owner/operator of the popular battlefield tour company Civil War Tours 2000-2015.

Speakers and Programs for 2018

March 13	Wayne Motts	Pickett's Charge
	Jim Hessler	
April 10	Ed Bearss	Shiloh
May 6	Jim Hessler	Sickles at Gettysburg

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, February 13, 2018 Meeting:

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for February include: Grilled Breast of Chicken, asparagus, mushroom, four-cheese sauce; Sliced Top Round of Beef; Seafood Alfredo; or Basil Pesto Cheese Tortellini with spinach. Soup, 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, February 9, 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.

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Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, zeibers@comcast.net



The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

March 2018



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If "pro" is the opposite of "con," what is the opposite of "progress?" If you happen to be the President of the United States, your answer will surely be "Congress." It seems almost everything you do is questioned, and your chief assistants are hauled before a committee that is intensely partisan and very much self-important.

What some may think modern is, in fact, many decades old. Just ask Abraham Lincoln about the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War. Considered by some to have been the harshest investigating committee in the nation's history, it was unquestionably partisan, repeatedly challenged Lincoln's authority as commander-in-chief, eschewed conventional military tactics and strategy, promoted the careers of generals of the "right" political persuasion and ruined those who either met defeat or seemed "soft" on the South in any fashion. The latter was especially true of those West Point graduates who also happened to be Democrats.

Chaired by Senator Benjamin Franklin "Bluff Ben" Wade of Ohio, the Joint Committee championed aggressive generals who sought to wreak vengeance on the South. For the most part, Lincoln managed to steer around the Committee while often incurring its somewhat impotent wrath (Lincoln, after all, did control the military). In one instance, Wade went on a screed at the White House telling Lincoln, "You are on the road to Hell with this government, and you are not a mile off this minute." This rather amused Lincoln who replied, "A mile from Hell, Senator? That is just about the distance from here to the Capitol, is it not?"

As a particularly interesting example, the Committee accepted testimony from Dan Sickles excoriating George Meade for his battle management at Gettysburg. It promoted Sickles' rather dubious claim that HE had actually won the battle while Meade had equivocated and sought to retreat rather than face Lee's legions.

While in 2018 we are presently besieged with partisan snipings over a half-dozen memo pages that may or may not have all of the important information included, the Joint Committee would eventually crank out eight volumes of reports gleaned from 272 meetings and that were intended to report only what it considered to be "correct." Those volumes would be released to friendly editors, and did *not* require (or seek) the permission of the occupant of the White House in advance.

It is difficult to say with any certainty whether Lincoln would have had continued success navigating the congressional shoal waters with the Joint Committee or its successor, the Joint Committee on Reconstruction. But, in the fifteen decades since the Civil War and Reconstruction eras have passed, it seems presidents still consider "progress" and "congress" to be contradictory terminology.

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the February meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table to order at 6:15 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on February 13, 2018, for 55 members and guests in attendance. Following a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, Craig welcomed guests and members Dave Unger and Wally Heimbach both returning following knee replacement surgeries.

The first item of business following dinner was entertained by VP Mark Quattrock who made a motion to donate \$400 to the Civil War Trust. The motion was seconded by Wally Heimbach and overwhelmingly approved by the membership. A leverage of \$21.17:\$1 had been offered to purchase battlefield land in Tennessee yielding a total of \$8,468. This donation was made in honor of Ed Bearss, our April speaker. The donation was made at this time to take advantage of the leverage. We are certain that Ed will approve of the action.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported that our balance as of February 16, 2018, stood at \$3,560.59 with \$470.00 earmarked for preservation. The unencumbered balance on February 16, 2018, was \$3,090.59. Membership currently stands at 89 members. The book auction brought in \$176.00 at the February meeting.

Preservation

Another successful round table meeting is in the books as we raised \$176 for preservation. As always, thanks to all of you who support the Book Raffle or made a donation. It is truly appreciated.

We also donated another \$400 to the Civil War Trust for a \$21.17-\$1 matching grant that covers three battlefields in Tennessee. They are Fort Donelson, Browns Ferry which is part of the Chattanooga Battlefield, and Franklin. This makes our total contribution \$8468. In addition, we are making this donation in the name of Ed Bearss in appreciation for his upcoming visit to the round table in April.

That's it for now. See all of you next month!

Mark Quattrock

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone that the deadline for ordering meals is always Friday at noon before the next meeting. If you have any problems ordering, please call Kathy. Her number is available in the section for Dinner Reservations each month.

Book Raffle

Gary Hertzog brought nine books to be auctioned. He reminded us of the list of titles on our website where books can be purchased outright for \$5.00 each. Simply notify Gary before the meeting so that he can bring your purchases along. All money raised will be put into our preservation fund. Thanks to all buyers of tickets and donations for this worthy cause.

Membership

Chairperson Dave Sweigert reported that we currently have 89 members. He introduced new member Bob Houck. Since we have been meeting at the Inn at Reading, we can accommodate many more members/attendees. Please invite others to join the round table. Membership dues are our only source of income to pay speaker fees.

Web Master

Lisa Breneiser reminded everyone of the books for sale listed on the website. She and Gary Hertzog have been working diligently to offer this benefit for our members.

Programs

Dave Unger announced the speakers for the March meeting, Wayne Motts and Jim Hessler. Those of us who frequent the Gettysburg Battlefield are quite familiar with both of these gentlemen. They will be speaking about Pickett's Charge, and it's guaranteed to be an exciting program.

Additionally, he reported that programs for next season are in the works at this time.

Joe's Jaunts

The next Joe's Jaunt field trip will be Saturday, April 28, 2018. We will be given a tour of Montgomery Cemetery, which is in Norristown, Pennsylvania. Six Union General officers are interred there along with a large number of other Union veterans. We will also hear about the Exeter Train Wreck and visit the graves of veterans killed in that disaster. Details on the time will follow next month. Thanks. Joe

Adopt-A-Position

The Spring date to work at our sites at Gettysburg National Park is Thursday, May 31.

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 will 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) or Barbara Shafer (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 Coordinator. The coordinator at Gettysburg Park is: Randall Hill at (717) 338-4479

For Your Consideration....from Mike Straus

Battle of Stone's River

In the clearing north of the woods, his face blackened by gun smoke, Sheridan ran into his commanding general. "Here we are," he told Rosecrans, "all that are left of us." He spoke the truth; in four hours of furious combat, culminating in one of the bravest fighting retreats of the war, he lost more than 1,600 men including three brigade commanders. Sill, Roberts, and Harrington were dead; soon Schaefer would join the terrible list. Sheridan was cursing, not so much from despair as from frustration. "Watch your language," Rosecrans ordered. "Remember, the first bullet may send you to eternity." With a third of his division heaped among the rocks and cedars behind him, Sheridan scarcely needed a lecture on the destructive capabilities of bullets. He shrugged. "Unless I swear like hell the men won't take me seriously," he said.

Gen. Phillip H. Sheridan
Dec 31, 1863

March Program

Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg

More than 150 years after the event, the fateful attack by 12,000 Confederate infantrymen against the Union position on Cemetery Ridge still emotionally resonates with Gettysburg enthusiasts like no other aspect of the battle. On the afternoon of July 3rd, Robert E. Lee would order perhaps the most legendary charge in American military history that would ever after be known (perhaps inaccurately) as "Pickett's Charge."

Often considered the turning point of the battle of Gettysburg and, by extension, the Civil War itself, much has been written about the battle itself and Pickett's Charge in particular. A participant observed the charge "has been more criticized, and is still less understood, than any other act of the Gettysburg drama." This program will bring the events of that sultry July afternoon in south-central Pennsylvania into crystal clear reality that will provoke a new understanding of this critical event by seasoned Gettysburg trampers and greenhorns alike.

Wayne Motts is the Chief Executive Officer of The National Civil War Museum, one of the largest museums in the country dedicated to the study,



interpretation, preservation and exhibition of the American Civil War. His professional resume is an impressive list of nationally recognized organizations. Wayne has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Adams County Historical Society, the Curator of the Cumberland County Historical Society, and Senior Research Historian for the TravelBrains Corporation. Wayne has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at the Gettysburg National Military Park since 1988. In 2013, Wayne received the Emeritus Guide designation for more than twenty-five years of service, and as such was one of the youngest guides to be so recognized with that honor. Wayne received his Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Military History from The Ohio State University. He received his Masters of Arts in American History from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.



James Hessler has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park since 2003. His book Sickles at Gettysburg (Savas Beatie, 2009) was awarded the R.E. Lee Civil War Round Table's "Bachelder Coddington Award" and the Gettysburg Civil War Round Table's "Distinguished Book Award" as the most outstanding work on the Gettysburg Campaign. Jim's latest book (co-authored with Wayne) Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, was released in July 2015 and has been received very favorably by both readers and critics alike as the first battlefield guide ever published on the famous July 3 assault. . Jim has written several articles for Gettysburg Magazine and other national publications. He is a frequent speaker at Civil War Round Tables and

has taught courses for the Gettysburg Foundation and Harrisburg (PA) Area Community College. James Hessler has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park since 2003.

Speakers and Programs for 2018

April 10
May 6

Ed Bearss
Jim Hessler

"Shiloh"
"Sickles at Gettysburg"

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, March 13, 2018 Meeting:

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for March include: Orange Ginger Glazed Chicken; Veal Parmesan with pasta; Shrimp and Flounder Amaretto; or Cheese Manicotti with marinara sauce. Soup, 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, March 9, 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.

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I received the following note from Pauline Shuman in early February. L. Z.

February 2, 2018

Dear Friends,

How thoughtful to remember Bob by donating to the Civil War Trust in his honor. He would have been humbled and pleased since he had such an avid interest in Civil War history and efforts to preserve battlegrounds.

Bob was always eager to share his knowledge of the Civil War with friends and strangers, adults and children in an effort to have them become interested in the history of our nation.

Attending the CWRT meetings and going on trips was a highlight of his retirement. He enjoyed them so much.

Thank you for remembering Bob by your donation. I too feel honored and blessed.

Sincerely,
Pauline Shuman

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

April 2018



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Stealth. Subterfuge. Secrecy. All critical elements when attempting to carry off a covert operation when the goal is to ensure the focus of your initiative is kept unaware. And, it is often difficult to carry it out with complete success.

It's amazing what goes into a surprise birthday party. Beyond the secrecy, there are the preparations of ensuring there is enough food. There are logistics involved with ensuring the supplies are delivered to the front lines at the right time. Then comes the task of maneuvering the guests "into position" unseen. And, of course, there is the need to confuse and misdirect the intended guest of honor.

While helping my daughter execute this surprise operation for her boyfriend's 30th birthday, I gave consideration to our upcoming "Evening with Ed" and the program topic of "Shiloh." If we had so much difficulty pulling off an extended family get-together in secrecy, what ever was Albert Sidney Johnston thinking when he sought to maneuver his 45,000 man Army of the Mississippi some 20 miles north from Corinth to surprise Ulysses S. Grant on the banks of the Tennessee River at Pittsburg Landing 156 years ago? An even better question: how did Johnston actually manage to pull it off (even though Grant and William T. Sherman would swear to their dying days they were *not* surprised. Yeah, right.)?

The collision between more than 100,000 men on April 6-7, 1862 would be the first large-scale battle of the Civil War, and any innocence that still existed following Bull Run and Wilson's Creek the previous would flow away with the lifeblood of more than 23,000 men, including Albert Sidney Johnston. His sloppy and very un-stealthy march to Pittsburg Landing came within an ace of resounding success largely because his Union counterparts were so dull and inattentive to what was going on around them that breakfast was literally on the table for their Confederate foes when they appeared as uninvited surprise guests.

We'll learn much more about the "Shiloh Surprise" from Ed Bearss on April 10th. In the meantime, I will savor being an integral part of my daughter's "victory" with her own secret operation that ended in total surprise.

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the March meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table to order at 6:15 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on March 13, 2018, for 63 members in attendance. Following a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Greg Stull, Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The first item of business included VP Mark Quattrochio thanking everyone for cards and contributions in tribute to his father who had passed away after last month's meeting. Next, Linda Zeiber informed everyone regarding Gerry Zeiber's recent hospitalization and surgery. He was wished a speedy recovery and a swift return to the round table. Chair reports then were given as follows:

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3746.19 as of March 15, 2018. Last month we took in a total of \$256.00 for preservation giving us a present total of \$726.00 for preservation. Our membership stands at 91 after picking up two new members. The unencumbered balance as of April's meeting stands at \$3020.19.

Preservation

The March meeting was a huge success as we raised \$256 toward preservation. The money raised came from the book raffle, donations, and from members who purchased books from the book list that we have on our web site. Thanks to all of you who continue to support our preservation efforts.

As of now we have raised a total of \$1606 this season. In addition we have donated \$1200, and, with all of the matching grants we have taken advantage of this season, our total contribution for season 21 is \$26,656.

Looking at all of the seasons-to-date, we have donated \$31,579. Our total contribution with matching grants for all of the seasons puts us at \$255,822.

Until next time!
Mark Quattrochio

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone that the deadline for ordering meals is always Friday at noon before the next 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.

Book Raffle

Gary Hertzog reported that there is a list of book titles on our website where books can be purchased outright for \$5.00 each. Simply notify Gary before the meeting of any titles that you are interested in purchasing so that he can bring your purchases along. All money raised will be put into our preservation fund. Thanks to all buyers of tickets and donations for this worthy cause.

Web Master

Lisa Breneiser reiterated that Civil War books are for sale as listed on the website. She and Gary Hertzog have been working diligently to offer this benefit for our members.

Membership

Membership Chair Dave Sweigert reported that we currently have 90 members. He introduced new member Mark Fegley. Since we have been meeting at the Inn at Reading, we can accommodate many more members/attendees. Please invite others to join the round table. Membership dues are our only source of income to pay speaker fees.

Programs

Dave Unger explained the absence of one of the evening's speakers, Wayne Motts. Wayne is the CEO of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg which experienced a plumbing problem on the day of the meeting. Wayne was needed to address this issue at the museum so his partner, Jim Hessler, stepped up and made the entire presentation.

Additionally, Dave reported that Chris Mackowski will be the speaker for the September 2018 meeting. Other speakers for the first half of our next campaign are listed later in the newsletter. Be sure to check them.

Joe's Jaunts-Montgomery Cemetery

The next Joe's Jaunt field trip will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2018. We will be given a tour of Montgomery Cemetery in Norristown, Pennsylvania, through the Montgomery County Historical Society. The tour will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will last about one and a half hours with another half/full hour to stroll at leisure through the grounds.

The total cost of the tour, **which will be divided among those in attendance**, is \$150.00 plus a tip for the guide. Thus, the more who attend, the smaller the fee per person. Attendees must provide their own transportation so carpooling is suggested. If anyone is interesting in bringing along guests, they will be welcomed.

Joe is working on reserving a room in a nearby tavern for lunch. He will give those final details at the April meeting.

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 will also hear about the Exeter Train Wreck and visit the graves of veterans killed in that disaster.

Adopt-A-Position

The Spring date to work at our sites at Gettysburg National Park is Thursday, May 31. 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.

Park Day at Gettysburg

Park Day sponsored by Civil War Trust is April 7, 2018.

There are several sites available in Pennsylvania. To see a list of parks, search **Park Day 2018, the Civil War Trust's annual hands-on event to help battlefields and historic sites take on maintenance projects large and small.**

This year the CWT Day Project for Gettysburg NMP will be at Codori/Trostle Thicket. Parking will be along Hancock Ave. - north of the Pennsylvania Memorial. Norma Lohman (717.338.4404 or norma_lohman@nps.gov) will take reservations for up to 60 participants. Volunteers should arrive no later than 9:00 a.m. to complete registration. The volunteer work day will begin shortly after 9:00 and end at 1:00. Please bring a lunch and or snacks. Work will include removal of shrubs and woody debris. Tools and drinking water will be provided. Wear sturdy shoes and appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather. Some gloves will be provided however - bring your own if you have them! An interpretive talk will be delivered at noon.

If you have questions, please contact Barbara Shafer. See above.

Remembrance Event July 6, 2018

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.

From Able Correspondent Mike Straus--

Coffin That Passes Slowly

Back In Washington D.C., the federal government shut down the day of the funeral, May 4, 1865. Offices were closed, flags flew at half- staff, public buildings remained draped in black, and military officers wore black crepe ribbons around the coat sleeves of their uniforms. John Wilkes Booth lay in a secret, unmarked grave on the grounds of the U.S.Army penitentiary at the Old Arsenal along the river, and at that walled, fortress prison eight of his accused conspirators languished in shackles and hoods awaiting their trial by military tribunal. Those proceedings would begin in a few days.

Ford's Theater remained closed and under guard. Secretary of State William Seward recovered from his wounds. At the White House, Lincoln's office had been sealed like a ship bottle, preserved just as the president left it on the afternoon of April 14. His widow continued her refusal to vacate the Executive Mansion, thus denying its proper use by the new President, Andrew Johnson. She had become the subject of much talk.

AT THE PETERSON HOUSE, PRIVATE WILLIAM CLARK WENT TO SLEEP EACH NIGHT COVERED BY THE SAME QUILT THAT HAD WARMED THE DYING PRESIDENT.

Soldiers back from the war once again got drunk in saloons, and people dining out in public houses gorged themselves on the delicacy of the day, fresh oysters.

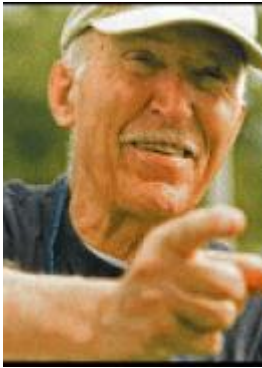
from *Bloody Crimes*, p. 287

by James Swanson.

...and life goes on...thanks, Mike!

April Program

April 6th, 1862, was the day any remaining vestiges of the Civil War being a short and painless war were dashed on the banks of the Tennessee River in northern Mississippi. Although he would deny it to his dying day, Ulysses S. Grant's Union army was surprised by a brazen attack led by Albert Sidney Johnston. By the time the sun went down,



Grant's troops had been pressed back nearly to the river and Johnston lay dead. The Battle of Shiloh would ultimately prove to be a Northern victory, but the luster Grant had achieved at Forts Henry and Donelson would become a bit tarnished, and the general would spend the next several months playing second-strong to Henry Halleck.

Our April program...our annual "Evening with Ed"...will feature the Battle of Shiloh as only the incomparable Ed Bearss can tell it. And, with his "devil-may-care" swagger, Ed is sure to have some surprises for us. Don't miss it!

Ed Bearss is the retired chief historian of the National Park Service. The author of numerous books, discoverer of the wreck of the U.S.S. Cairo and prolific tour guide and lecturer, Ed is the most frequent guest lecturer of the First Defenders and one of our greatest friends. Still on the lecture circuit and battlefields as he approaches his 95th birthday, Ed continues to make it appear that the Energizer Bunny is standing still!

Speakers and Programs for 2018

May 6	Jim Hessler	Sickles at Gettysburg
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22nd Campaign

September 11	Chris Mackowski	TBA
October 9	Ryan Quint	Battle of Monocacy
November 13	Kevin Pawlek	Battle of Shepardstown
December 11	Craig Breneiser	Battle of Franklin

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, April 10, 2018
Meeting:

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for April include: Cornbread Stuffed Chicken with supreme sauce; Beef Stroganoff over egg noodles; Haddock with butter crumb top; or Vegetarian Lasagna. Soup, 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, April 6, 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.

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The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

May 2018



www.firstdefenderscwr.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"In school I remember learning the Civil War ended a long time ago. Folks here don't always see it that way. They think it's still half-time." North Carolinian Abe Stice, as told to Tony Horwitz in "Confederates in the Attic."

"Southerners are very strange about that war." Shelby Foote

(Appomattox, VA) A spur-of-the-moment decision took us to Appomattox Courthouse on the 153rd anniversary of Lee's surrender to Grant in 1865. An early spring day gave way to the sixth "onion snow" of the season, so the indoor venue presented by a nearby museum provided some relief from the elements. As one might expect, the exhibits had a largely Southern flavor, but they were balanced and well-presented.

The obligatory visit to the museum's gift shop brought under my gaze a bobble-head figurine of Robert E. Lee. (Let that sink in for a moment... "Marse Robert," the "Old Gray Fox," a blooded member of the First Families of Virginia, the "Marble Man" reduced to a cartoonish parody on par with Snoopy, Winnie the Pooh and modern sports stars!) Well, okay, I'm old and perhaps a bit more traditional in my thinking of how art should depict heroes of days gone by. But, there it was. C'est la vie.

Hardly had I returned to my normal equipoise when I noticed another bobble-head on the other side of the display. This one was of Abraham Lincoln (let THAT one steep in your thinking: the Great Emancipator as a bobble-head!)



I immediately noticed something awry. Bobble-Head Lincoln was turned the wrong way. He faced to the rear, and visitors were greeted by his back. Perhaps someone had picked him up, looked him over and simply returned him to the shelf improperly.

But, no, on the next shelf, and well-above head level, was a more traditional rendering of the 16th president, a bust. It, too, had its head turned to the back of the display. Clearly, this was no coincidence. Nor could it have been child's play: both the bobble-head and the bust were at adult height with the latter well-above the six-foot level.



Curious, I asked the cashier if the display was intended to impart some message. She looked at the display behind me, sighed and said, "Again." Apparently, this was not the first time Old Abe's back had been turned. As routinely as "clean up in Aisle 5" at a grocery store, the museum staff retrieved a step stool and reoriented Lincoln to again face the people.

Study of the Civil War is interesting, even fascinating, to us in the North who see it as an exciting bygone era. There are those in the South, though, who today fervently believe they live in an occupied land. From a human perspective, it is enlightening to learn of views different from our own and the individuality that makes folks unique. However, the differences we face today cannot help but lend some credence to the observation the past 153 years have been, indeed, half-time.

For the Glory,

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the April meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table to order at 6:17 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on April 10, 2018, for 53 members and guests in attendance. Following a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The first item of business found Craig discussing what would happen when a scheduled speaker could not attend his assigned meeting. Because of Ed Bearss' recent fall and hospitalization, Craig experienced just that situation. Fortunately, Member Wally Heimbach offered to fill in for Ed and presented a program on Winfield Scott Hancock. The topic was timely since a Joe's Jaunt is scheduled to visit the grave of Hancock in Norristown on April 28th. Details of this day trip are available later in this newsletter.

Wally had recently spoken to Ed and reported that he was doing well considering the circumstances. We all wish Ed a speedy return to the battlefields! A get-well card from the First Defenders was sent to Ed.

Chair reports then were given as follows:

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3,783.64 as of April 11, 2018. For the month of April, we took in a total of \$154.00 for preservation giving us a present total of \$854.00 for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of May's meeting stands at \$2,929.64.

Preservation

Vice President Mark Quattrock reported that there were no matching grants that he was aware of at this time. He urged members to check our donation amounts for battlefield preservation over the lifetime of our round table. It is approaching a quarter of a million dollars.

Mark reminded us that a donation had already been made in Ed Bearss honor to three Tennessee battlefields during the March meeting.

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.

May Book Raffle--from Gary Hertzog

As our final meeting of our current campaign arrives, thank you to all who continue to support our mission and book raffle. We are certainly making a difference in battlefield preservation. As a reminder, at our May meeting, we will be selling some various items such as VHS tapes, posters, newspaper replicas, and jigsaw puzzles. Perhaps you may find something of interest to you and find a good bargain as well. Thank you.

Programs

Dave Unger announced a brief meeting of his committee following the evening's speaker. He passed a flyer around from Wayne Motts, Executive Director of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, regarding the second annual National Civil War Round Table Congress on August 18, 2018. You can find this flyer on our website if you are interested in representing the First Defenders.

Joe's Jaunts-Montgomery Cemetery

The next Joe's Jaunt field trip will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2018. We will be given a tour of Montgomery Cemetery in Norristown, Pennsylvania, through the Montgomery County Historical Society. The tour will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will last about one and a half hours with another half/full hour to stroll at leisure through the grounds.

The total cost of the tour, **which will be divided among those in attendance**, is \$150.00 plus a tip for the guide. Thus, the more who attend, the smaller the fee per person. Attendees must provide their own transportation so carpooling is suggested. If anyone is interested in bringing along guests, they will be welcomed.

Joe is reserving a room in the Eagleville Tavern for lunch around 12:30 p.m. The Montgomery Cemetery is located at 1 Hartranft Street. Take Route 422 to the Ochs exit and follow Egypt Road to the cemetery.

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 will also hear about the Exeter Train Wreck and visit the graves of veterans killed in that disaster.

Adopt-A-Position

The Spring date to work at our sites at Gettysburg National Park is Thursday, May 31. 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 & 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.

May Program

Sickles at Gettysburg

No one who fought at Gettysburg was more controversial than Daniel Edgar Sickles. A disgraced former congressman who had shot and killed his young wife's lover (and who beat the charge with the first insanity defense in American history), Sickles was the only military non-professional corps commander in either army at Gettysburg.



Reviled by many, Sickles would always claim he had won the battle by deploying (and essentially destroying) his III Corps from Devil's Den, through the Wheatfield to the Peach Orchard and along the Emmitsburg Road. Assailed from two directions by Longstreet's Confederate juggernaut, historians still debate whether Sickles was foolish or extraordinarily lucky. Sickles would lose a leg during the action on July 2nd, and he would never return to a field command. He would, however, eventually return to Congress late in the 19th Century and manage to have himself awarded a Medal of Honor!

James Hessler is a Licensed Battlefield Guide who has written what has been described as the first balanced biography of Daniel Edgar Sickles. His program will discuss this rogue-ish character who left an indelible mark on the Battle of Gettysburg and who lived a long and controversial life. Love Sickles or despise him, he was unquestionably one-of-a-kind!

Speakers and Programs for 2018

23rd Campaign

September 11	Chris Mackowski	TBA
October 9	Ryan Quint	Battle of Monocacy
November 13	Kevin Pawlek	Battle of Shepardstown
December 11	Craig Breneiser	Battle of Franklin

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Meeting:

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for May include: Chicken Dijonaise; Stuffed Boneless Pork Chop with pan gravy; Twin House Made Salmon Cakes with tiny pea and dill cream sauce; or Eggplant Parmigiana with fettuccini and 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, May 4, 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.**

Elections 2018

**OUR MAY MEETING INCLUDES THE ALL-
IMPORTANT ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR OUR
UPCOMING 22ND CAMPAIGN!**

**THE PROGRAM SCHEDULE IS ALREADY UNDER
DEVELOPMENT, BUT WE NEED A**

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

**TO LEAD THE FIRST DEFENDERS ON THEIR NEXT
CAMPAIGN.**

**ANY MEMBER CAN BE NOMINATED TO SERVE IN ANY POSITION; THE
ONLY PRE-REQUISITE IS BEING A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING**

**NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE FROM THE FLOOR DURING THE
BUSINESS MEETING.**

**IF INTERESTED, PLEASE LET PRESIDENT BRENEISER KNOW SO HE
CAN ASSURE YOUR NAME IS PLACED BEFORE THE MEMBERSHIP
FOR CONSIDERATION!**

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

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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 Quattroch	<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>