

# The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2018



[www.firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwrt.us)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Craig*

### **Round Table Board Meeting**

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

### **Treasurer's Report**

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

### **Preservation**

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

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

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

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

### **Meal Captain**

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

## **September Book Raffle--from Gary Hertzog**

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

### **Joe's Jaunts- An Incredible History Journey**

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

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

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

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

### **Adopt-A-Position**

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

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

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

First Defenders has adopted six sites, Gregg's monument located at East Cavalry Field, 18th PA Cavalry located at Big Round Top, WV 1st Cav (Farnsworth) and Benning's Brigade (TX) on South Confederate. The two new sites are Buford's Statue and Reynold's Equestrian Statue both on Chambersburg Pike.

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

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

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

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

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

## **Tours**

### **A Stroll Through History” – Charles Evans Cemetery Tours**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Programs

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

### September Program

#### Second Guessing Richard Ewell: The First Day at Gettysburg

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

Returning for his third program before the First Defenders, Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is a professor of journalism and mass communication at St. Bonaventure University and historian-in-residence at Stevenson Ridge, a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield. He also volunteers at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he still gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania), as well as at the building where Stonewall Jackson died. With Kris White, he is co-founder of Emerging Civil War. Together, they have co-authored a half-dozen Civil War books, and they've written features for every major Civil War magazine. Mackowski is also the solo author of *Grant's Last Battle: The Story Behind the Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant*, *Hell Itself: The Battle of the Wilderness*, and *Strike Them a Blow: Battle Along the North Anna River*. With Albert Z. Conner, Jr., he is co-author of *Seizing Destiny: The Army of the Potomac's "Valley Forge" and the Civil War Winter that Saved the Union*. Mackowski and White were honored in 2016 by the Army Historical Foundation with its Lt. Gen. Richard G. Trefry Award for contributions to the field.

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### Speakers and Programs for 2018

#### 23rd Campaign

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

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

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

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon, Friday, Sept. 7, 2018, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*** Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU PAY IN THE APPROPRIATE DOLLAR AMOUNT. WE DO NOT HAVE A CHANGE DRAWER. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT \$50 OR \$100 BILLS IN PAYMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

# The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

October 2018



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have spent the last several weeks (or were they months or maybe even years?) agonizing over the lack of civility amongst our elected leaders, the screeds of supposed bastions of the world's finest examples of journalism and the discordant bellowing from just about everyone with their own personal electronic trumpet. I have concluded that I have arrived at the same place previously visited by my father and grandfather (and, I suspect, my ancestors before): the current generation is on its way to Hell and is not now a mile off!

Then I try to find solace in my books, and quickly realize the Civil War era was hardly less on that same road to Hell. Republicans and Democrats could hardly agree on anything, and the election of Abraham Lincoln resulted in the country being torn asunder. Even the respective halves suffered through their own inability to...paraphrasing Benjamin Franklin...hang together. Radical Republicans were misguided zealots to their more conservative party brethren, and so-called War Democrats (what today would likely be known as DINOs: Democrats In Name Only) were venomously attacked by the Copperhead Peace Democrats (let THAT oxymoron sink in for a moment!). South of the Mason-Dixon Line, the political battle lines were a bit less murky: there was Jefferson Davis and then there was nearly everyone else.

As this is being written, all eyes are on the Senate Judiciary Committee. "Circus" has been used repeatedly to describe the recent proceedings with respect to a Supreme Court nominee (and one has to wonder what sane individual would actually *want* the job given the over-the-top hate and discontent exhibited by opponents *and* proponents alike). However, the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War far-and-away surpassed anything we are seeing today when it comes to witch hunts, injustice, sanctimony, character assassination and (wait for it!) leaks to newspapers that made no pretension of fair, objective reporting and proudly proclaimed their partisanship while accepting government printing contracts.

And yet, somehow the nation has survived in spite of itself. Perhaps the United States has been truly blessed by an all-powerful God (or, perhaps, the Supreme Being turns to us for comedic relief!). The ship-of-state rocks back-and-forth like the latest amusement park roller coaster, but it never seems to capsize and always ends up safely bringing its passengers back to safety. We survived the Civil War and two world wars that would follow, and managed to make great strides in human dignity

and equality while leading the rest of the world forward in science, industry, technology, medicine and countless other forms of progress. While Hell may appear on the horizon, we can take comfort knowing that others have passed through this crucible before and this fiery trial, too, will become history. We know not how we will survive or what the future portends, but this experiment that is the United States of America will endure, and subsequent generations will have their opportunity to experience seeing Hell just a mile off.

*Craig*

## **Round Table Business**

Beginning our 23rd Campaign, President Craig Breneiser called the September meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table to order at 6:20 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on September 11, 2018, for 55 members and guests in attendance. Following a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting following our summer hiatus. One guest, as well as two new members, were introduced.

The first item of business informed those in attendance of Joe Schaeffer's recent illness and of Ev Binns' hospitalization. We wish both gentlemen a speedy recovery and a swift return to the group.

Chair reports then were given as follows:

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3092.02 as of September 14, 2018. There is currently \$213.00 available for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of September's meeting stands at \$2879.02. Our membership stands at 92.

### **Preservation**

Welcome back to another season and Season 22 is off to a flying start with a great speaker Chris Mackowski and with raising \$152 from our book raffle and with members making donations. Thanks to all of you for our supporting our Preservation efforts.

In addition the membership approved the round table making two donations. The first is to the American Battlefield Trust for \$200 to put toward a matching grant they are running for \$4.85-\$1 for 3 battlefields-- Shiloh, TN, Glendale, VA, and Fredericksburg, VA. This donation was also made in the name of our speaker, Chris Mackowski.

The second donation is \$100 to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation for the matching grant that they are running at \$10-\$1 for Fisher's Hill at Cedar Creek. With these donations, this puts our total contribution for this season at \$1970.

Gettysburg once again made the news as WalMart is looking to move the location they currently have in Gettysburg to land across the road from Benner's Hill and the Daniel Lady Farm. The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association which owns the Lady Farm is working on trying to stop WalMart from building. Right now the zoning board for Upper Swatara Township first has to decide on whether to approve allowing WalMart to build there. We will keep everyone posted as news updates are announced.



## **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. She also thanked everyone for cooperating with this procedure.

## **September Book Raffle**

Mark Quattrochio and Lisa Breneiser stepped in for Gary Hertzog to hold the monthly book raffle. Sales of tickets were brisk in advance of the drawing for 10 books which were raffled. Thanks to all who buy tickets which have made it possible to donate more than \$256,000 for battlefield preservation over the past 22 years.

## **Programs**

Dave Unger announced that Ryan Quint would be presenting the program in October. His topic is the Battle of Monocacy. You may read more about this program at the end of the newsletter as well as on the website.

## **Joe's Jaunts-Gettysburg**

The next field trip (Joe's Jaunts) will be Saturday, October 13, 2018, on the Gettysburg Battlefield. James Hessler, a Battlefield Guide and author of *Sickles at Gettysburg*, will guide us on a tour of the area where Major General Daniel Sickles, Third Corps fought on July 2, 1863. Mr. Hessler spoke to our round table last spring on this topic, and now we will visit the scene of the action. Daniel Sickles remains to this day one of the most controversial figures at Gettysburg and beyond.

We plan to begin the tour at 9:00 a.m. with the meeting place to be determined. You can expect a 3-hour tour. Some easy-to-moderate walking will be required. Please wear good walking shoes and long pants as we expect to be in fields and woods. Staying with our protocol, please arrange your own transportation and try to carpool.

Please contact Joe Schaeffer at 610-334-2029 or [jschaeffer@edgeabstract.com](mailto:jschaeffer@edgeabstract.com) before the October meeting if you plan on attending. If you do not have a ride, we can work on that at the meeting. If we get 15 people, we can expect the guide fee including a tip, to be at or under \$20.00. If interested, I will arrange a place for us to have lunch and a beer after the tour. That worked out well last spring. Thanks. Joe

## **Newsletter**

Linda Zeiber announced that the deadline for newsletter submissions for October is Tuesday, September 18. She will be leaving on a trip so late submissions will not be included in the October newsletter.

She thanked Lisa Breneiser for taking over her responsibilities for the summer board meeting minutes as well as writing and publishing the September newsletter. She did an excellent job on both. If any member would like a copy of the board minutes, let Linda know and they will be provided to you. Call at 610-678-1168 or email to [zeibers@comcast.net](mailto:zeibers@comcast.net).

## Website

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser reported that our website has been updated. She gave a reminder to everyone to check out all of the book titles available for purchase on the website.. There's no need to wait for the book raffle if you see something that you would like to purchase. Just give the titles to Gary Hertzog. Remember that all proceeds go toward battlefield preservation.

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**NEWSFLASH (Beyond the Civil War!):** Charter member Rich Kennedy has written a full one-act play, "Following Sisyphus."

It is a modern-day dramedy with several references to Reading. You will connect. Single performance only.

This will be a dramatized staged reading with adult themes on Sunday 4 November at 2 p.m.

DoubleTree "Birch Room" theater at 701 Penn Street. Complimentary parking with validation.

\$10 at the door. Open seating. 100% will be donated to COCA.

Two-character play. Both players are accomplished actors from Lancaster and Dauphin Counties. It is directed by Dr. John Rohrkemper of Elizabethtown College.

**Sit down--buckle up--hold on. It gets bumpy!**

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## Adopt-A-Position

The fall date to work at our sites at Gettysburg National Park is Thursday, September 27. 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.

## October Program

### The Battle of Monocacy: In Their Words

The comparatively small action along the Monocacy River near Frederick, Maryland, on July 9, 1864 is often called "The Battle that Saved Washington." There, a pick-up force of Union troops under the command of Major General Lew Wallace stalled the storied Second Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia for much of the day before being compelled to fall back. A tactical loss for the North, it would prove a strategic victory by delaying Jubal Early's Confederates long enough for additional troops to be rushed from the Petersburg trenches to the defense of the national capital. Early may have "scared Abe Lincoln like hell," but he failed to



take Washington. However, rather than looking at the Monocacy commanders, this talk focuses on five common soldiers...three Yankees and two Rebels...who fought the battle by examining their writings to see what the private soldiers on the field can tell us about the "The Battle that Saved Washington."

*Ryan Quint graduated from the University of Mary Washington and is a seasonal park historian at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. His Civil War interests focus on the Union armies and Jubal Early's 1864 invasion of Maryland. He is author of the Emerging Civil War Series book Determined to Stand and Fight: The Battle of Monocacy.*



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## Speakers and Programs for 2018-2019

### 23rd Campaign

November 13	Kevin Pawlek	Battle of Shepardstown
December 11	Craig Breneiser	Battle of Franklin
January 8, 2019	Mark Quattrock	US Army Medical Dept. in the Civil War
February 12	Wally Heimbach	Phil Kearny
March 12	Jim Lawler	The Sultana Disaster
April 9	Scott Mingus Sr.	The Louisiana Tigers at Gettysburg
May 14	Paul Kahan	U.S. Grant and Reconstruction

## **Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, October 9, 2018**

### **Meeting:**

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for October include: Greek Stuffed chicken with Spinach, Feta cheese, Lemon, Olive Oil; chopped Sirloin with Onion Sauce; Potato Crusted Cod with Dill Cream Sauce; or Rigatoni with Zesty Vegetable Marinara. 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, October 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.

**\*\*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.**

# The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

November 2018



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."*

So spoke Abraham Lincoln in March 1861 as he assumed the presidency of a deeply divided nation tottering on the brink of civil war. Soothing words intended to act as a balm to long-standing animosities...some legitimate, others less so...in an effort to avoid dissolution of the United States and what Lincoln feared would be a bloody struggle. And the war came.

The nation is again deeply divided, and passions are strained. While there is not yet any martial display to fire passions, we are witness to more than a little political bluster, news media pontifications and marching in the streets. Like Lincoln's "house divided" speech, we are told it must become all one thing or the other. A middle ground is not possible.

We are told the mid-term canvass on November 6th is "the most important election in our lifetime." While this seems to be an increasingly bi-annual description of a then-pending national election, there is little question that monumental and divisive questions face our Union in 2018.

In the midst of the darkest days of the Civil War, 1864 dawned as an election year. Lincoln saw clearly, "We can not have free government without elections." 154 years later, that prophecy still rings true. Regardless of your political leaning, the ability to cast a real ballot in a free and fair election is one of our most important birthrights handed down for nearly 250 years. Elections were then, and continue to be, determined by who shows up. Make sure that you show up on November 6th!

*Craig*

## **Round Table Business**

President Craig Breneiser called the October meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table to order at 6:20 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on October 9, 2018, for 51 members in attendance. Following a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited everyone to enjoy dinner and then resumed the meeting at 7:05 p.m..

Chair reports then were given as follows:

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3296.45 as of October 11, 2018. There is currently \$170.00 available for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of September's meeting stands at \$3126.45. Our membership stands at 63.

### **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. She also thanked everyone for cooperating with this procedure.

### **Programs**

Dave Unger announced that Kevin Pawlak would be presenting the program in November. His topic is the Battle of Shepherdstown. You may read more about this program at the end of the newsletter as well as on the website.

### **Joe's Jaunts-Gettysburg**

On Saturday, October 13, 2018, on the Gettysburg Battlefield, James Hessler, a Battlefield Guide and author of *Sickles at Gettysburg*, guided 11 round table members on a comprehensive tour of the area where Major General Daniel Sickles and his Third Corps fought on July 2, 1863. Mr. Hessler spoke to our round table last spring on this topic, and on Saturday we visited the scene of the action. Daniel Sickles remains to this day one of the most controversial figures at Gettysburg and beyond.

From the base of Little Round Top to the Sherfy House, we studied for 3 1/2 hours the topography of the field while Jim filled in the information needed to visualize and understand what occurred on July 2. It is safe to say that all in attendance had a top-notch tour followed by lunch before heading home.

Joe is to be congratulated and thanked for a terrific day. He has already done the groundwork for Saturday, May 4, 2019, for a spring jaunt to Harpers Ferry with Dennis Frye taking charge of the tour. Dennis has given programs several times at the round table and never disappoints with his knowledge and enthusiasm. The fall of 2019 offers still another jaunt to Gettysburg studying Longstreet's march/counter-march with Jim Hessler as our guide once again. If you have not participated in any of the "jaunts", you are missing a unique opportunity for small-group study and fellowship with other members.

## Adopt-A-Position

We had our work day for AAP on Thursday, September 27 at Gettysburg National Park. Roger Cotterill and Don Stripling worked on the Buford and Reynolds Equestrian Monument while Gary Hertzog, Kathy Little And Barbara Shafer worked on Benning's Brigade (TX) on South Confederate, 18th PA Cavalry located at Big Round Top and 6th PA Cavalry.

The two groups met for lunch. We then worked on Greggs Monument, we are waiting on a decision of the Park to paint the fence surrounding the monument.

We then worked at WV 1st Cav (Farnsworth), removing vegetation along the stone wall. We completed about half of the removal when it started to rain. We will concentrate on this area in the spring. Our last monument was the 8th PA Cavalry where we returned our equipment.

Our second group went to Gettysburg Baking Company located on the Square. Our driver ate his dessert one block away from it and was ready to get another dessert. It was a great ending for the day and expect it to be part of future work days.

All of the sites looked much improved with our effort. We did identify another site for a future adoption. When we adopt another site, our first visit requires the most effort. Maintenance is needed after that point.

Our next work date will be in the spring of 2019. We will wait the Park's decision on painting Gregg's 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 part will be at the adopted site. All work at the project site must be prearranged with the AAP Coordinator. The coordinator at Gettysburg is Caitlin Brown at 717-338-4479. If you would like a current list of sites to adopt, contact Caitlin at the Gettysburg National Military Park.

## Website

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser reported speakers through December have been booked. She reminded everyone to check out all of the book titles available for purchase on the website. The list is being updated. There's no need to wait for the book raffle if you see something that you would like to purchase. Just give the titles to Gary Hertzog. Remember that all proceeds go toward battlefield preservation.

## Book Raffle

Gary Hertzog thanked our speaker Ryan Quint for donating one of his books, *Determined to Stand and Fight*, to our book raffle for the evening prior to the raffle. A \$200 donation with a leverage was made to the American Battlefield Trust in Ryan's name. Gary thanked members for helping our efforts for preserve battlefield lands.

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**NEWSFLASH (Beyond the Civil War!):** Charter member Rich Kennedy has written a full one-act play, "Following Sisyphus," a modern-day dramedy with several references to Reading. You will connect. Single performance only in the DoubleTree "Birch Room" Theater at 701 Penn Street in Reading on November 4th at 2 PM with complimentary parking. The cost is \$10 at the door with open seating. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to COCA. This is a two-character play with both players being accomplished actors from Lancaster and Dauphin Counties. It is directed by Dr. John Rohrkemper of Elizabethtown College. **Sit down--buckle up--hold on. It gets bumpy!**

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## Clark Hartman Wells

from Dave Unger

This is a summary of a *Reading Eagle* article written by Ron Devlin.

Clark Hartman Wells of Reading, a Naval Academy graduate in 1846, was a Civil War hero during part of his excellent 37 year career in the United States Navy. In the Battle of Port Royal in 1861, he was the executive officer of the USS *Susquehanna* under Captain James Lardner. There he was commended for his bravery and service in the successful capture of Port Royal Sound in South Carolina.

In 1862 he was an executive officer of the Philadelphia Naval Yard and then in 1864 joined the West Gulf Squadron as commander of the *Galena*, an ironclad gunboat. During the Battle of Mobile Bay, Wells bombarded Fort Morgan and commanded two vessels when another captain was wounded. Admiral David Farragut, commander of the Union Navy at Mobile Bay commented on Captain Wells' bravery in his official report. He said about Wells in his official report, "The command of two vessels, devolved upon you, and were carried through the battle with great gallantry,"....." I take pleasure in giving my official testimony to your meritorious conduct in that engagement."

Wells was commissioned a commander in 1866 and promoted to captain in 1871. His distinguished service and high reputation won him the Legion of Merit from the French government in 1875.

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From Mike Straus--

Lt. Alonzo Cooper, 12th New York Cavalry, was made a prisoner at Plymouth, North Carolina on April 20, 1864. He records fortunately that he was not doomed to be a resident of Andersonville. Whereas out of eighty- five comrades who belonged to the same detachment of cavalry, and who were destined to suffer the blood-curdling horrors of Andersonville, only eighteen ever lived to relate the fiendish cruelty to which they were obliged to submit.

Along with the other officers, he was separated from the enlisted men and sent to Camp Oglethorpe in Macon, Georgia. They would sing:

In the prison pen I sit, thinking mother most of you,  
And the bright and happy home so far away,  
While the tears they fill my eyes, spite of all that I can do,  
Though I try to cheer my comrades and be gay.

Tramp, tramp, tramp the boys are marching,  
Cheer up, comrades, they will come,  
And beneath the starry flag, we shall breathe the air again,  
Of the free land, in our own beloved home.

In the battle front we stood, when their fiercest charge was made,  
And they swept us off, a hundred men or more,  
But before we reached their lines, they were driven back dismayed,  
And we heard the shout of victory o'er and o'er.

Tramp, tramp, tramp the boys are marching,  
Cheer up, comrades, they will come,  
And beneath the starry flag, we shall breath the air again,  
Of the free land, in our own beloved home.

So within the prison pen, we are waiting for the day,  
That shall come and open wide the iron door,  
And the hollow eye grows bright, and the poor heart almost gay,  
As we think of seeing friends and home once more.

*In and Out of Rebel Prisons*

Page 70

Lt. A. Cooper



## **Speakers and Programs for 2018-2019**

### **23rd Campaign**

<b>December 11th</b>	<b>Craig Breneiser</b>	<b>"The Second Battle of Franklin"</b>
<b>January 8th</b>	<b>Mark Quattrock</b>	<b>"The U.S. Army Medical Department in the Civil War"</b>
<b>February 12th</b>	<b>Wally Heimbach</b>	<b>"Phil Kearny"</b>
<b>March 12th</b>	<b>Jim Lawler</b>	<b>"The Sultana Disaster"</b>
<b>April 9th</b>	<b>Scott Mingus</b>	<b>"The Louisiana Tigers at Gettysburg"</b>
<b>May 14th</b>	<b>Paul Kahan</b>	<b>"Ulysses S. Grant &amp; Reconstruction"</b>

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## **November Program**

### **Antietam Endgame**

The events leading up to the Battle of Antietam have been recounted many times and are generally familiar to most Civil War students: Lee's decision to move into Maryland following his summer triumphs over two Union armies, Lincoln's decision to restore McClellan to command of the Army of the Potomac, the famous "Lost Order," the struggles at South Mountain, Jackson's capture of 12,000 Federal soldiers at Harper's Ferry, and, finally, the bloodiest day in American history on September 17, 1862 along the banks of the Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg. But, the story does not end when the sun sets on that late summer day, and more than 72 hours remain in the Maryland Campaign. This program examines the next three days...September 18-20...and their repercussions for the Lee's first venture across the Potomac.



*Kevin Pawlak works as a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Antietam National Battlefield and is education specialist for the Mosby Heritage Area Association. Kevin also sits on the Board of Directors of the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War at Shepherd University, and the Save Historic Antietam Foundation. Previously, he has worked and completed internships at Harper's Ferry National Historical Park, The Papers of Abraham Lincoln at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, and the Missouri Civil War Museum. Kevin graduated in 2014 from Shepherd University where he studied Civil War history and historic preservation. He is the author of Shepherdstown in the Civil War: One Vast Confederate Hospital, published by The History Press in 2015.*

## **Dinner Reservations for the Tues. November 13, 2018 Meeting:**

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for November include: Roasted Turkey with Cornbread Stuffing; Roasted Sirloin of Beef; Key West Salmon; or Eggplant Parmigiana with Fettuccini and Marinara Sauce. 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, Nov. 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.

**\*\*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.**

# The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

December 2018



[www.firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwrt.us)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Perceptions.** We all develop our own as they relate to the people, places and things that adorn our lives. It is natural for us to perceive someone as either a delightful individual or a complete fool. A favorite mountain retreat for one could be sheer agony to the rest of the family. And an evening with friends and Civil War programs could be a relaxing getaway that causes our significant other to roll their eyes so hard they can almost see their brain! Our perceptions may not extend to others, and this is sometimes difficult to accept. Especially when those perceptions are long-held and deeply-engrained.

This truth came to mind a few weeks ago when I intended a living history interpretation with Mary Todd Lincoln. I was immediately struck by her southern accent, but, upon reflection, why would I be surprised given that Mary was born and reared in Kentucky? Still, Sally Field displayed no accent in her *Lincoln* performance a few years ago, and Mary Tyler Moore similarly spoke *sans* drawl in Gore Vidal's *Lincoln* back in 1988. Although many portrayals of Mrs. Lincoln relegated her to little more than speechless window dressing, it is difficult to recall even one with a Kentucky twang.

The perception extends further as we see Mary as somewhat loony and a stress on her husband at times when he certainly did not need more stress. We know her as hardly being thrifty, concerned with her own image, incapable of accepting the death of Willie and, eventually, being committed to an asylum by Robert. Yet we seldom consider that she was very well educated (somewhat unusual for antebellum Southern belles), bore four sons of which three would pre-decease her, celebrate her China Anniversary to Abraham while in the White House, serve as an unofficial counselor to the President of the United States while also being a comfort to him during his depressions and would be tenderly holding his hand on April 14, 1865 when an assassin fired a derringer less than two feet from her left ear.

Taken as a whole, my perception of Mary Todd Lincoln has changed. This change is not based on newly-discovered facts or research, but on things often overlooked, not considered important or greatly overshadowed by more salacious characterizations passed on for more than fifteen decades.

In an era of clearly-biased news reporting and cinematic political correctness, it is easy to develop and harbor perceptions. Searching more deeply, though, and opening one's mind to different interpretations or additional information can often lead to an interesting and unexpected catharsis as we continue our life's journey. Embrace the change!

*Craig*

## **Round Table Business**

President Craig Breneiser called the November meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table to order at 6:18 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on November 13, 2018, for 63 members and guests in attendance. Following a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited everyone to enjoy dinner and then resumed the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Chair reports then were given as follows:

### **Preservation**

November's meeting has come and not only did we have a great speaker in Kevin Pawlak; but, thanks to all of you who either bought book raffle tickets or donated money, we raised \$170 for preservation. Thanks to all of you who support the book raffle or donate money. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Association has come up with a matching grant to purchase 209 acres of the Huntsberry Farm property that is part of the Third Winchester Battlefield. They are offering a 2:1 match on the first \$31,000 that they receive. This grant is made possible from donors Rod and John Graves and the Luray Caverns Corporation.

There are no new updates in the fight to keep Wal-Mart from building a new store on land near Benner Hill and the Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg. The plan Wal-Mart has is to close their current location on the York Road (Route 30) and to move it to the new location. The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation is leading the effort to fight Wal-Mart and to keep the Upper Swatara Township Commissioners from approving. There are also no new updates on the Camp Letterman site. We will keep you updated as information comes out.

Until next time!

*Mark*

## **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3706.05 as of November 14, 2018. There is currently \$320.00 available for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of September's meeting stands at \$3386.05. Our membership stands at 76.

## **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. She also thanked everyone for cooperating with this procedure.

## **Programs**

Dave Unger announced that President Craig Breneiser will be presenting the program in December. His topic is the Battle of Franklin. You may read more about this program at the end of the newsletter as well as on the website. Be sure not to miss one of "our own" at the December meeting.

## **Joe's Jaunts-Gettysburg**

Joe Schaeffer reviewed the most recent jaunt to Gettysburg led by LBG Jim Hessler. Jim made a presentation on General Sickles to the round table in the fall, and the battlefield tour was a companion to his program. Those who attended gave the day high marks in every way.

There are two tours in the planning stages. The first will be to Harper's Ferry on May 4, 2019, led by historian and Guide Dennis Frye. Dennis is well-known to First Defenders and has given several programs in the past. In the fall of 2019, Jim Hessler will once again lead a battlefield tour at Gettysburg covering Longstreet's march and counter-march preceding the July 1863 battle. Details for both tours are forth-coming.

## **Membership**

Joe Schaeffer reported that there are 76 round table members to date with four people signing up prior to the November meeting; but many more members are needed. He encouraged everyone to talk to family and friends about joining the round table. We have a contract with the Inn at Reading for a specific number of dinners per month. We failed to reach that number in October, and, as a result, ended up paying for a dinner that was not eaten. Discussion will be in order in the future to deal with our reduced roster in 2018.

## **Website**

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser reminded everyone to check out all of the book titles available for purchase on the website. The list is being updated. There's no need to wait for the book raffle if you see something that you would like to purchase. Just give the titles to Gary Hertzog. Remember that all proceeds go toward battlefield preservation.

Lisa asked that anyone finding things that need updating to please let her know.

## December Book Raffle

Just a reminder that we will have a special raffle for *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*. It is a 9-volume set including an index. The set was published between 1953-1955. Tickets will be sold 3 for \$2.00.

While we do not have any books on Craig Breneiser's 2nd Battle of Franklin topic scheduled for December, we have several biographies on different personalities that were present at that battle. These will be at our December meeting. Thank you for your continued support of our preservation efforts.

Thanks, Gary Hertzog

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### From Mike Straus--

I have slept in this corner for many a night,  
A prisoner of war in a pitiful plight,  
I have ate my corn dodger, my bacon and rice,  
And have skirmished my shirt and my drawers for lice.

Here's health to Jeff Davis and bad may it be,  
May mercy and pardon after him flee,  
May he find, when too late, to his sorrow and cost,  
that not only the Confederacy, but Heaven he's lost.

*In and Out of Rebel Prisons*

Page 262

Lt. Alonzo Cooper

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## Do You Have a CW Ancestor?

If you would like to share information about a Civil War ancestor/s, please forward this to Linda Zeiber at [zeibers@comcast.net](mailto:zeibers@comcast.net) for inclusion in upcoming newsletters. We are all interested in personal connections to the past.

Space in the newsletter will be a consideration so be patient as to the dates of publication. I will edit or compose if needed. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me.

*Linda*

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## Speakers and Programs for 2018-2019

### **23rd Campaign**

January 8th	Mark Quattrock	"The U.S. Army Medical Department in the Civil War
February 12th	Wally Heimbach	"Phil Kearny"
March 12th	Jim Lawler	"The Sultana Disaster"
April 9th	Scott Mingus	"The Louisiana Tigers at Gettysburg"
May 14th	Paul Kahan	"Ulysses S. Grant & Reconstruction"

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### **December Program**

#### **The Second Battle of Franklin**

On November 30, 1864 one of the most sanguinary battles of the Civil War took place south of Nashville near the sleepy town of Franklin, Tennessee. By the end of the day, the Confederate army of John Bell Hood had engaged in an assault nearly twice as large as Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg the year before. Crashing up against prepared Yankee breastworks, the resulting carnage in just five hours totaled more than 6,500 Rebel casualties, more than 20-percent, including six general officers one of whom, Patrick Cleburne, was arguably the finest division commander in the Confederate armies. The heart and soul of the Army of Tennessee was gone, and two weeks later that once-valiant fighting force was all-but eliminated in front of Nashville.



The Battle of Franklin is often overlooked.

No national military park exists there, and almost the entire battlefield has been swallowed up by modern development. But, a new battle is in progress, one which is focused on preserving that which is left and interpreting the titanic struggle and its aftermath in a 21st Century fashion. The Second Battle of Franklin is intended to remedy the oversights of the past, pay homage to those who struggled there in what may have been the climactic battle of the Western Theatre and shine a well-deserved spotlight where it has long-been absent.



*Craig Breneiser is serving his fourth term as president of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table. This is his second presentation to the group, and he has been long-intrigued by the 1864 Tennessee Campaign that has been eclipsed in history by Sherman's March to the Sea, but which almost certainly played a more critical role in the outcome of the Civil War. Craig is the retired director of the Berks County 9-1-1 Center, and currently works as a consultant for Essential Management Solutions, LLC. He lives with his wife, Lisa, in Lehigh County where he continues to contemplate writing his book.*



### **Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, December 11, 2018 Meeting:**

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for December include: Cornbread Stuffed Chicken with Supreme Sauce; Honey Roasted Ham with Grilled Pineapple Sauce; Stuffed Flounder; or Stir-Fry Vegetable Symphony and White Rice. 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, December 7, 2018, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*** Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. This is the policy of the Inn at Reading, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

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### ***Remembrance Day at Gettysburg 2018***





# The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

January 2019



[www.firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwrt.us)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

An exciting New Year...2019...is upon us. A time for reflection on what has been and resolving on how to make the coming year better. I've gained too much weight and need to lay off the cookies (!). Too many golf games and not enough time tending to the household landscaping. Planning to go to church on Sunday but just not quite getting there. Or, wanting to be a "kinder and gentler" person but still finding oneself frustrated with others who just "don't get it."

Looking back over my monthly messages for 2018, I see that I've written about a general lack of civility in political, sectional and personal discourse in eight of nine essays. And that was from the Civil War era! So, how did our forebears resolve for a better coming year?

One can only imagine the trepidation with which Abraham Lincoln approached 1861 knowing that he would assume the presidency over a rapidly-disintegrating nation. Or 1862 when the prospects for winning a Civil War looked bleak indeed. 1863 may have been more hopeful with the Emancipation Proclamation scheduled for ratification on New Year's Day. The coming of 1864 showed the end of the war to still be elusive as a presidential election appeared on the horizon. By 1865, his second term reassured, Lincoln could really see the end.

A hundred miles to the south, Jefferson Davis approached each new year with opposite hopes and dreams. He would look to create a new nation in 1861, but would also see a challenging path ahead. 1862 would see the Southern star ascendant, but a year later societal dogma would be challenged by the Emancipation Proclamation and the Confederacy was no closer to its independence. The dawn of 1864 showed an ebb tide of Southern fortunes, but Davis would maintain his enthusiastic belief in the Confederate States of America. By 1865, though, the dream was dying and Davis had to work hard to buoy the spirits of his people while praying for a miracle that would never come.

By comparison to what Lincoln and Davis faced in their coming new years, our concerns about weight, getting the housework done or being more faithful seem to pale and are rather self-centered. It would be another century before another president would say, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." What can each of us do in 2019 to make the United States of America a better place for ourselves and for all future generations? Simply, resolve to

continually do your best in all things to maintain the legacy that was bequeathed to us by the contemporaries of Lincoln and Davis as well as by the two men themselves.

*Craig*

## Round Table Business

Vice President Mark Quattroco called the December meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table to order at 6:16 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on December 11, 2018, for 55 members in attendance. Following a prayer led by Ev Binns and the Pledge of Allegiance, Mark welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited everyone to enjoy dinner and then resumed the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Chair reports were given as follows:

### **Preservation**

We are continuing to make strides in our preservation efforts as we raised \$235 during our December meeting. Thanks to all of you who bought tickets for our monthly book raffle or for the special raffle for the series of books on Abraham Lincoln. Also, thanks to all of you who made donations toward preservation. Your contributions continue to be greatly appreciated.

At our December meeting, the membership approved two donations. The first is for the American Battlefield Trust in the amount of \$200 to be put toward the \$32.74-\$1 matching grant they are running to preserve 5 battlefields. They are: Fort Blakely in Alabama, Wilson Creek Battlefield in Missouri, Rappahannock Station in Virginia, and Aversboro and Bentonville Battlefields in North Carolina. Our total contribution with the matching grant comes to \$6548.

Our second donation was made in the amount of \$200 for the Battle of Franklin Trust. They are currently running a \$2-\$1 matching grant and, with the donation, we are making a total contribution of \$400.

As of our December meeting, we have raised for this campaign a total of \$405. We have donated \$900 and, with all of the matching grants, we have donated money toward a total contribution to date of \$9424.

Finally, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation announced that they are looking for donations to purchase 131 acres of the Toms Brook Battlefield. They are hoping to raise a total of \$58,235 to purchase the 131 acres. For this project the Foundation is not offering any matching grants.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3369.00 as of December 12, 2018. There is currently \$155.00 available for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of September's meeting stands at \$3214.00. Our membership stands at 78. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### **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.

### **Programs**

Dave Unger announced a meeting of his committee to be held on January 2, 2019, at the Peanut Bar in Reading. He informed us that Mark Quattrochio will be the speaker for January discussing the Medical Department during the Civil War.

Speakers are still needed for next winters of 2019 and 2020. Contact Dave if you want to make a presentation.

### **Joe's Jaunts-Gettysburg**

Joe Schaeffer had no new information regarding trips at this time. He has been taking care of membership for several months now, and, in that regard, announced that we currently have 78 members and continue looking for more.

### **Book Raffle News!!!**

Many of our members have been requesting a time to make book donations to our supply. If anyone has any books that they would like to contribute, please see me at our January 8 or February 12, 2019, meeting. Let me know approximately how many books you are making available. We shall then decide when to bring your books to the March through May meetings depending on the quantity of books that we are receiving.

You may also email me at gshertzog@verizon.net with any book donations that you wish to make. Thank you once again for your generous support of battlefield preservation.

Wishing everyone "A Happy and Healthy New Year." Gary Hertzog

### **AAP**

Barbara Shafer announced the next trip to Gettysburg for the Adopt-A-Position monuments cleanup would occur on June 6 or June 20, 2019. If you are willing to help out, please let Barb know.

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\*I would like to thank Mike for another excerpt from his reading. If anyone else finds an interesting passage from your reading, feel free to forward it to me for inclusion in the newsletter. Meanwhile, keep them coming, Mike! L.Z.

From Mike Straus:

William Tecumseh Sherman

He was never quiet. He was never still. Whenever he was deep in thought or events seemed to be hanging by a thread, he folded his arms behind him and began pacing, wreathed in a haze of blue cigar smoke. Unlike Grant, who smoked leisurely and thoughtfully, Sherman was a steam engine in britches. He puffed furiously, frequently snatching the cigar from his lips and carelessly thumping away the ashes with the little finger of his left hand. He rarely finished half of one before lighting another. When he did stop long enough to sit down, he would cross his legs, fidget nervously with the buttons on his coat, drum his lean fingers on the table, or comb them through his hair and closely cropped beard. Soon he was back on his feet, an unruly shock of red hair keeping time with his relentless pacing, pacing, pacing.

His restive, razor-sharp mind never slept through the night. He habitually rose hours before dawn, but made up the deficit by pulling a battered felt hat over his eyes and stealing short naps during the day. He could be impatient, irritable, and abrupt to the point of rudeness.

Duke was one of the horses that carried him through the Atlanta campaign. A "superb" bay Thoroughbred who pranced gaily at the sound of his name, Duke was "particular about his meals" and refused to drink out of creeks or mud holes. "He was a City Gent," Sherman noted and seemed "to like getting into town again."

*Sherman's Horsemen*

Pages xxiii-xxxv

David Evans

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### **Do You Have a CW Ancestor?**

If you would like to share information about a Civil War ancestor, please forward this information to Lisa Breneiser for posting on our website. We are all interested in personal connections to the past.

If you have not yet taken a look at Dale Kratzer's submission, check it out on our website.

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### **Speakers and Programs for 2019** **23rd Campaign**

<b>February 12</b>	<b>Wally Heimbach</b>	<b>Phil Kearny</b>
<b>March 12</b>	<b>Jim Lawler</b>	<b>The Sultana Disaster</b>
<b>April 9</b>	<b>Scott Mingus Sr.</b>	<b>The Louisiana Tigers at Gettysburg</b>
<b>May 14</b>	<b>Paul Kahan</b>	<b>U.S. Grant and Reconstruction</b>

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## January Program

### The United States Army Medical Department in the Civil War

Anyone with experience in emergency medical or trauma care recognizes many of the most important advances in the field have their genesis,



unfortunately, on the battlefield. Many aspects of the care practiced today in both war zones and on the homefront can be traced directly back to treatments and procedures first practiced during the Civil War.

The antebellum U.S. Army Medical Department was woefully unprepared for the influx of battle

casualties and medical crises that followed the organization of huge volunteer armies. Problems arose from the outset with the rudimentary education of many Old Army surgeons who were loathe to adapt and improvise to changing conditions. In time, however, circumstances forced changes in medical organization, treatment and transport of the wounded, an evolving understanding of disease and sanitation and the importance of nursing care. Too, the efforts by the United States Sanitary and Christian Commissions provided support and resources previously unknown to medical "professionals."

This program will trace the evolution of the U.S. Army Medical Department from its antebellum days to the legacies that have been handed down to battlefields in foreign lands and the highways and byways of modern America.



*Roundtable Vice President Mark Quattro has studied Civil War era medicine for years, and regularly practices the art as a "living historian." With the assistance of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Mark is currently researching a book on this topic.*

**Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, January 8, 2019 Meeting:**

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for January include:. Chicken Parmesan; Smoked Country-Style Sausage with Onion Gravy; Fried Flounder with Old Bay Crab Sauce; or Vegetables with Penne and Vodka Sauce. 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 4, 2019, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*** Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the 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.**

# The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2019



[www.firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwrt.us)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**We have just come to the end of "the longest government shutdown in history." Depending on your political persuasion, your side emerged victorious and the opposition were the fools. But, has anything been solved by the agreement to (yet another!) continuing resolution?**

**Abraham Lincoln's government found itself running out of money in 1862 as the daily cost of the war seemingly spiraled out of control. There were no "CR's" in the 19th century; the government either had money or it did not. It could, perhaps, seek to continue the conflict on credit in much the same way the Revolutionary War generation did, but the European nations were less interested in a northern victory over the South than they had been with chiding England eighty years before.**

**Appealing to a combination of individual patriotism as well as an opportunity to make a few dollars from the government, bonds were issued in an effort to keep the federal coffers filled. This effort proved to be hugely successful, and would be the harbinger of even bigger "war bond" initiatives during World War I and II in the 20th century. In these cases, but most especially during the Civil War, it would be the faith and patriotism of the common citizen to sustain the government during its time of need.**

**Financial markets are certainly more complex today than they were 150 years ago, and no sane individual would suggest the United States government has proven to be a model of fiscal restraint and sound judgment. With so many investment opportunities available today to people who view wealth either very personally or something which should be shared amongst everyone, it begs the question of whether the patriotism that saved the nation in 1862 would rise to the occasion in 2019.**

**But, then, today we have continuing resolutions. Yeah, that should take care of things...**

*Craig*

## **Round Table Business**

President Craig Breneiser called the January meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table to order at 6:25 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on January 8, 2019, for 50 members and guests in attendance. Following a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited everyone to enjoy dinner and then resumed the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Chair reports were given as follows:

### **Preservation**

The January round table meeting was another success for preservation with the books for our book raffle dealing with the topic of Civil War Medicine and the dead. We raised \$156 from the book raffle. Thanks to all of you who continue to support the raffle or made donations. This is greatly appreciated!

The American Battlefield Trust recently announced a new matching grant of \$5.59-\$1 to purchase 50 acres of the Gaines Mill/Cold Harbor Battlefield. Hanover Township told the Trust if they are not successful with raising what they needed to purchase the land then the Township would build a recreation park with soccer and lacrosse fields and a parking lot. The Township then went back to the Trust to tell them the plans for the park are now scrapped.

Finally, legislation has been re-filed with Congress to add an additional 8 acres to Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield. The 8 acres includes both the Wallis House and Harriston Hill and is currently owned by both Cobb County and a local preservation group. They are looking to turn the land over to the National Park Service. This is the 4th attempt to file legislation and hopefully it is the charm for Congress to pass this and for the land to become part of the National Park.

Until next time!

Mark

### **Treasurer's Report**

Tim Antosy presented his report at the January meeting. Our balance as of January 09, 2019 stood at \$3418.52 with \$311.00 ear-marked for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of January 09, 2019, is \$3,107.52 with 78 members paid. \$156.00 was donated to the Preservation Fund in January. Thank You.

Timothy M. Antosy

### **Meal Captain**

Kathy Little thanked everyone for cooperating with the procedure for ordering meals each month. She explained that we need a minimum of 52 attendees each month to meet our contract with the Inn at Reading. Please attend your meetings and encourage others to do the same, not only to enjoy fellowship and learning but also to meet our obligation to the Inn.

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.

### **Programs**

Dave Unger announced that the program committee meeting is working on a survey about programs and speakers for the round table. It is not quite finished but should be coming in a month or two.

Dave reminded everyone that Wally Heimbach will be presenting the program in February on Phil Kearny.

### **Joe's Jaunts-Gettysburg**

Joe Schaeffer reminded us that the next "jaunt" is scheduled for May 4, 2019, traveling to Harper's Ferry. Dennis Frye will be leading the tour there. Dennis has given several programs to the round table and is one of our favorites. Details will be forthcoming closer to the May date.

### **Book Raffle News!**

Many of our members have been requesting a time to make book donations to our supply. If anyone has any books that they would like to contribute, please see Gary Hertzog at our February 12, 2019, meeting. Let him know approximately how many books you are making available. A decision will be made as to when to bring your books to the March through May meetings depending on the quantity of books that you are donating.

You may also email Gary at [gshertzog@verizon.net](mailto:gshertzog@verizon.net) with any book donations that you wish to make. Thank you once again for your generous support of battlefield preservation.

Gary thanked Mark Quattrock for donating books about Civil War medicine which was his program topic for the meeting.

### **AAP**

Barbara Shafer announced the next trip to Gettysburg for the Adopt-A-Position monuments cleanup would occur on June 6, 2019. If you are willing to help out, please let Barb or Don Stripling know.

### **Heartfelt Thanks**

We all owe considerable thanks to Craig Breneiser, Mark Quattrock, and Wally Heimbach for being willing to put in the time preparing programs for the round table. All of the programs require a huge commitment in order to stand before us and make their presentations. For the most part, we have paid speakers who do programs on a regular basis. Our members have given us excellent programs which have been on par with any "professional."

Thank you for treating us to your planning and expertise! It is great to hear from *our own*.

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\*Mike Straus has given us something a little different this time. The black dialect reminds me of the many Civil War letters that we have from my husband's ancestors, equally difficult to decipher but are written in phonetic Pennsylvania Dutch. I would like to thank Mike for another excerpt from his reading. If anyone else finds an interesting passage from your reading, feel free to forward it to me for inclusion in the newsletter. Meanwhile, keep them coming, Mike! L.Z.

Corporal Prince Lambkin

December 5, 1862  
1st South Carolina Volunteers  
Camp Saxton  
"de Fus' So uf"  
Beauford, South Carolina

"Our mas'rs dey hab lib under de flag, dey got dere wealth under it, and ebryting beautiful for dere chilen. Under it dey hab grind us up, and put us in dere pocket for money. But de fus' minute dey tink dat ole flag mean freedom for we colored people, dey pull it right down, and run up de rag ob dere own. But we'll neber desert de ole flag, boys, neber; we hab lib under it for eighteen hundred sixty-two years, and we'll die for it now."

*Army Life in a Black Regiment*  
Page #23  
Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson

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### **Do You Have a CW Ancestor?**

If you would like to share information about a Civil War ancestor, please forward this information to Lisa Breneiser for posting on our website. We are all interested in personal connections to the past.

If you have not yet taken a look at Dale Kratzer's submission, check it out on our website.

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### **Speakers and Programs for 2019**

#### **23rd Campaign**

**March 12**  
**April 9**  
**May 14**

**Jim Lawler**  
**Scott Mingus Sr.**  
**Paul Kahan**

**The Sultana Disaster**  
**The Louisiana Tigers at Gettysburg**  
**U.S. Grant and Reconstruction**

## February Program

### Phil Kearny- International Soldier presented by Wally Heimbach

The American Civil War produced many memorable and flamboyant personalities who, even 15 decades later, almost seem larger than life. Major General Phil Kearny was one such individual who would have loomed even larger had he not been cut down during the Battle of Chantilly in September 1862. "Kearny the Magnificent" was the scion of a wealthy family who pointed him toward a career in law. But, a desire for military adventure that burned from his youth would push him toward the U.S. Army and a commission at the age of 21. Wanderlust would take him to other continents to fight with other armies, and he was known for riding into battle with the reins of his horse held in his teeth, a revolver in one hand and a swinging saber in the other. Loss of an arm during the Mexican War did nothing to decrease his flamboyance (even if he did have to use only one weapon at a time!). On the Peninsula, Kearny was at the head of his troops urging them forward saying, "Don't worry men, they'll be shooting at me!" At the time of his death, rumor suggested President Abraham Lincoln was considering him as a replacement for George McClellan, and it's interesting to hypothesize what may have happened to the Union war effort if the magnificent Kearny had been promoted to lead the Army of the Potomac instead of Ambrose Burnside.



*Wally Heimbach is a long-time Round table participant who seems to know almost everyone who is anyone in modern-day Civil War touring, research and writing. His first Round table presentation in 2018, a last-minute substitute for the renowned Ed Bearss, dealt with another superb Union general, "Hancock the Superb."*

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**Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, February 12, 2019 Meeting:**

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for February include:. Chicken Saltimbocca; Pork Tenderloin with Peppercorn Sauce; Crab Stuffed Shrimp; or Basil Pesto Cheese Tortellini with Spinach. 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, Feb.8, 2019, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*** Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the 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.

# The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

March 2019



[www.firstdefenderscwr.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwr.us)

Please note: Because of the cancellation of the February 2019 meeting of the Round Table, there is no new business to report. Refer to the February newsletter for the most recent committee news.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

News from North Carolina reports that yet another military statue was recently targeted for destruction. Once again, the Old Dominion suffers an attack on history by would-be purveyors of political correctness. Almost...

It seems these "Midnight Marauders" suffer from a staggering dearth of historical acumen or an understanding of some basic tenets of science (thus leading to the inescapable question of whether they ever went to ANY class in high school).

First, the science. Pouring lighter fluid on marble will, at best, make a temporary show and leave some scorching. But, with a melting temperature of over 1300 degrees Celsius, a tanker-truck load of Zippo is unlikely to make any significant inroads into damaging the marble sculpture.

Then, there is the history. There have been many military figures with the surname of "Lee," but not every statue is of Robert E. In this instance, the target was Major General William Lee, the father of U.S. Army airborne operations in World War II. While it is possible William and Robert have some common lineage dating back to the days of King Arthur, there appears to be no evidence the former commander of the 101st Airborne "Screaming Eagles" has any kinship to the "Gray Fox."

It was George Santayana who wrote in his 1905-06 classic *The Life of Reason: The Phases of Human Progress* that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." "Human progress" appears doubtful based on the scientific and historical capabilities exhibited by these chuckleheads, to which I would add this 21st century observation: you can't fix stupid.

*Craig*

## Joe's Jaunts

The next field trip, known as Joe's Jaunts, will take place on Saturday, May 4, 2019. We will visit Harper's Ferry with retired National Park Service Ranger/Historian Dennis Frye. Dennis has spoken multiple times to our round table and is a truly dynamic speaker and guide. You will not forget nor will you be bored on a tour with Dennis. You can be sure that we will visit some sites not normally seen by the public.

Expect a long day with very minimal and light walking. As usual we will carpool, so at the March meeting, I will begin to inquire who wishes to go and start to organize drivers.

We plan to meet Dennis near Boonesboro around 10:00 a.m. and tour until 3 or 4 p.m. You should bring drinks, snacks and lunch for yourself. For those who wish, we will stop on the way home at Inn 94, New Oxford, for dinner.

Joe Schaeffer

\*\*\*\*\*

## Berks History Center "*Stroll Through History*"

The Berks History Center is hosting another *Stroll Through History* on Saturday, April 6, 2019, at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. Dig up the past with guided tours of Aulenbach's Cemetery and enjoy history presentations by Civil War enthusiast, Mark Pflum. Participants, please meet 15 minutes prior to tour start time at the upper parking lot of Francesca's Restaurant (formerly Arner's) on Howard Boulevard, Mt. Penn. Cost is \$5 for members of the Berks History Center and First Defenders, Berks County Civil War Round Table, and \$8 for non-members. Pre-payment required by calling 610.375.4375.

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## March Program

### The Sultana Disaster

The *Sultana* was a classic Mississippi River side-wheel steamboat heading north with an overloaded passenger manifest on April 27, 1865 when three of her four boilers exploded near Memphis. In the worst maritime disaster in United States history, the disaster claimed nearly 1,200 victims.



Taking on passengers and cargo at Vicksburg, the *Sultana* was intended to carry fewer than 400 people. But, with the end of the Civil War, the upriver trip would include many former Union POWs anxious to return home. When the *Sultana* left the dock, there were more than 2,100 souls-on-board a vessel whose captain already had concerns about her mechanical condition.

It was about 2 o'clock in the morning as the *Sultana* was fighting a strong spring flood current that her first boiler exploded with two others following in quick succession. Passengers were scalded, burned to death in the ensuing fire or thrown overboard into icy waters to perish. Yet, at least 760 would survive to tell their stories.

The assassination of President Abraham Lincoln less than two weeks before consumed the nation's interest, and the *Sultana* disaster would be relegated to "below the fold" in news reporting. Yet in disaster, there are fascinating stories of courage to be told and important lessons to be learned.

*Jim Lawler is a retired computer software engineer and a long-time resident of Chester County where he is a member of the Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table. Jim is also a past Camp Commander and current Secretary-Treasurer of the Bradbury Camp, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Jim's interest in the Civil War is due to his Great-Grandfather, Private Michael Dougherty of the 13th Pennsylvania Cavalry, a Medal of Honor Recipient, and survivor of the prisoner-of-war camps in Richmond and Andersonville. He also survived the Sultana Disaster.*



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### **Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, March 12, 2019 Meeting:**

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for March include: Stuffed Chicken with Sausage and Sage; Beef Stroganoff over egg noodles; Tropical Glazed Salmon; or Pasta Carbonara, Penne Pasta with peas and mushrooms in a cream 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, March 8, 2019, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*** Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the 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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### **Speakers and Program Topics for 2019**

4/9/2019	Scott Mingus Sr.	The Louisiana Tigers at Gettysburg
5/14/2019	Paul Kahan	U.S. Grant and Reconstruction

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Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber, [zeibers@comcast.net](mailto:zeibers@comcast.net)





# The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

April 2019



[www.firstdefenderscwr.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwr.us)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Guilt. Sometimes you know it's coming. You snatch an extra cookie or remember that you procrastinated doing something important (like meeting the Newsletter deadline!). Other times, though, you are overcome with a sudden cold dread that is a telltale sign you are in trouble even if you don't know why.

I recently took an evening class on using a table router. Knowing this would be a workshop setting, I attired myself in jeans and one of my denim Gettysburg shirts with the obligatory crossed U.S. and Confederate battle flags embroidered on it. Common clothing for any of us with a Civil War interest (especially of Gettysburg!)

The instructor was a black man. A student in front of me was another young black man. The class was small, and both men were very polite and outgoing, yet there was that dread coming over me like a summer storm. I was in the presence of two men who, we are told, view the Confederate flag as a sign of oppression oft-times bandied about by white supremacists. I found myself involuntarily twisting and turning trying to block their view of what I was certain had to be a full-sized St. Andrew's cross on a crimson background and on which their attention had to be laser-focused. I envisioned myself being the cause of the next Charlottesville, and talking my way out of the crisis with some stirring recitation on the importance of Civil War history and understanding seemed as remote as finding a life vest on the *Titanic*.

My discomfort (and guilt) would only worsen. Soon, it was my turn at the router table. Both hands and arms were needed to operate the device and properly guide the work piece; they could not be spared to hide the offending emblem. (Failure to pay close attention and avoid distraction was key to losing body parts to a high-speed router bit!)

Mercifully, the class ended (days later, I'm sure!). There was no confrontation. Angry mobs did not appear. Frankly, I don't know whether either man even noticed (or cared about) my shirt. It's been nearly four years since Charleston changed perceptions about the Civil War and its symbols, and many of us are not quite sure why or how to act. That is has, though, is unquestionable. So, my Civil War attire will be relegated to appropriate occasions that are clearly related to events or places

where it can be seen as a tribute to those who fought a fratricidal war that would ultimately make the United States a better nation and promote understanding to eradicate those lingering feelings of guilt continuing to plague us 15 decades later.

*Craig*

## Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the March meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table to order at 6:25 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on March 12, 2019, for 56 members and guests in attendance. Following a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited everyone to enjoy dinner and then resumed the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Craig announced the passing of member Si Boone. Condolences were offered to his companion Iris Ringler and his acquaintances. Everyone was encouraged to keep Si in prayers and memory.

There are currently 78 members of the round table. Several years ago, we experienced a high of 102. A survey has been compiled to touch base with the wishes of current members. It is available online on our website ([www.firstdefenderscwr.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwr.us)). Please complete this survey and return it at the April meeting.

Chair reports were given as follows:

### Preservation

Mark Quattrochio reported that he had received a Keith Rocco print depicting the Battle of Brandy Station from the American Battlefield Trust. He also shared a thank-you letter from the Battle of Franklin Trust for our donation of \$200. He described a leverage currently being offered and suggested a future donation. Mark's latest donation totals for battlefield preservation given by our members comes to \$33,405 which has been leveraged to \$268,448. Mark promises a longer report in the May newsletter.

### Treasurer's Report

Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$2993.24 as of March 13, 2019. There is currently \$191.00 available for preservation which includes \$150.00 set aside for a special project. The unencumbered balance as of April's meeting stands at \$2802.24. Our membership stands at 78.

Timothy M. Antosy

### Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded us 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.

## **Programs**

Dave Unger announced that the November 2019 program will be presented by Wally Heimbach whose program about Phil Kearny was postponed by February weather. Dave reminded everyone that April's program centers around the Louisiana Tigers at Gettysburg and will be given by Scott Mingus, Sr.

### **Joe's Jaunts-Gettysburg**

The next field trip, famously known as "Joe's Jaunts", will take place on Saturday, May 4, 2019. We will visit Harper's Ferry with retired National Park Service Ranger/Historian Dennis Frye. Dennis has spoken multiple times to our round table and is a truly dynamic speaker and guide. You will not forget nor will you be bored on a tour with Dennis. You can be sure that we will visit some sites not normally seen by the public.

Expect a long day with very minimal and light walking. As usual we will carpool, so at the April meeting, Wally Heimbach, in Joe's absence, will begin to inquire who wishes to go and continue organizing drivers.

We plan to meet Dennis near Boonesboro around 10:00 a.m. and tour until 3 or 4 p.m. You should bring drinks, snacks, and lunch for yourself. For those who wish, we will stop on the way home at Inn 94, New Oxford, for dinner.

Joe Schaeffer

### **Book Raffle News**

Gary Hertzog brought 13 books which were raffled during the March meeting. He encouraged anyone wishing to donate books to this worthy cause to bring them to the April and May meetings.

You may also email Gary at [gshertzog@verizon.net](mailto:gshertzog@verizon.net) with any book donations that you wish to make. Thank you once again for your generous support of battlefield preservation.

## **AAP**

The Spring date to work at our sites at Gettysburg National Park is Thursday, June 6.

We will meet at Lowes at 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 six sites, John Buford monument, John Reynolds monument, Gregg's monument located at East Cavalry Field, 18th PA Cavalry located at Big Round Top, WV 1st Cav (Farnsworth) and Benning's Brigade (TX) on South Confederate.

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

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

## **Berks History Center "Stroll Through History"**

The Berks History Center is hosting another *Stroll Through History* on Saturday, April 6, 2019, at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. Dig up the past with guided tours of Aulenbach's Cemetery and enjoy history presentations by Civil War enthusiast, Mark Pflum.

Participants, please meet 15 minutes prior to tour start time at the upper parking lot of Francesca's Restaurant (formerly Arner's) on Howard Boulevard, Mt. Penn. Cost is \$5 for members of the Berk's History Center and First Defenders, Berks County Civil War Round Table, and \$8 for non-members. Pre-payment required by calling 610.375.4375.

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## **More Than Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain...**

**From Mike Straus**--Mike reminds us that some levity existed during the war and that this could have been a great April Fool's joke. Thanks, Mike, for a little insight into the 20th Maine!

Winter Camp near Rappahannock Station  
December 4, 1863

As I recall the names of those brave fellows, and think of the amusements of that winter, I am almost tempted to assert that it was the happiest time of my life. Many recruits came to us during that time, and of course they were proper subjects for practical jokes. One fellow from the backwoods of Maine reached the regiment late in the afternoon. He soon revealed to a number of boys that his only fear in becoming a soldier was that he would not be able to stand on "a picket post." He felt that it would require a great deal of practice to do this in a skillful manner, and since he had decided to enlist, he had not had a moment's time to practice it. Of course the boys had a great deal of sympathy for him, and kindly promised to assist him, for which he was very thankful. They informed him how difficult a thing it was for them when they first began. They accompanied him to the lower end of the street, where a post some four feet in height and six inches in diameter was set upright in the ground, the upper end being sharpened to a point. With a little assistance the recruit succeeded in reaching its sharpened top, and in the evening twilight, for nearly two long hours he managed to maintain his position, and received the compliments of his comrades. He then went to his tent, proud of the fact that he had mastered so difficult a problem in so brief of a time.

Army Life  
History of the 20th Maine Infantry Regiment  
Page #136

## April Program

Next to the famed "Stonewall Brigade," there is probably no more colorful organization in the Army of Northern Virginia than the 1st Louisiana Brigade, better known as the "Louisiana Tigers." The Tigers are most-often connected with the assault on East Cemetery Hill at Gettysburg on the evening of July 2nd, but Harry Hays' men played an important and somewhat raucous role on their northern journey.



At First Manassas, they were known as "Wheat's Tigers," many of whom had less-than savory reputations in the pre-war era but who were hard, tough and feared by their Northern adversaries. Under Hay's leadership, the Tigers were instrumental in the Battle of Second Winchester in June 1863 that would open the door into Pennsylvania. They would follow Jubal Early's division through Gettysburg in late June as it headed for the Susquehanna River, and would be bivouacked outside of York for two days because officers feared the consequences of allowing their men in a town still occupied by women and liquor. They would return to Gettysburg a few days later and eventually break through portions of the Union East Cemetery Hill line before being forced back by Federal reinforcement and a lack of support from Confederate units.

Possibly because the Tigers were never associated with a dashing, charismatic leader like their Second Corps "Stonewall" comrades, historians tend to give short shrift to these fighting Louisianians and their contributions to the Pennsylvania Campaign.

*Scott Mingus is a scientist and executive in the paper industry and holds patents in self-adhesive postage stamps and bar code labels. The Ohio native graduated from the paper science and engineering program at Miami University, and was part of the research team that developed the first commercially successful self-adhesive U.S. postage stamps. Scott has authored fifteen Civil War books, and his biography of Confederate General William "Extra Billy" Smith won the 2013 Nathan Bedford Forrest Southern History Award as well as the Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Prize. Scott maintains a blog on the Civil War history of York County ([www.yorkblog.com/cannonball](http://www.yorkblog.com/cannonball)). His great-great grandfather was a 15-year-old drummer boy in the 51st Ohio Infantry, and other family members fought with the Army of the Potomac at Antietam and Gettysburg.*



## **Do You Have a CW Ancestor?**

If you would like to share information about a Civil War ancestor, please forward this information to Lisa Breneiser for posting on our website. We are all interested in personal connections to the past.

If you have not yet taken a look at Dale Kratzer's submission, check it out on our website.

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## **Speakers and Programs for 2019**

### **23rd Campaign**

**May 14**

**Paul Kahan**

**U.S. Grant and Reconstruction**

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### **Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, April 9, 2019 Meeting:**

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for April include: Grilled Breast of Chicken with asparagus, mushrooms, and four-cheese sauce; Sliced Top Round of Beef Pot Roast with vegetable sauce; Crab Stuffed Shrimp; or Cheese Manicotti with marinara sauce. Salad, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$25.00 inclusive for meals.

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon, Friday, April 5, 2019, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*** Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the 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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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

# The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

May 2019



[www.firstdefenderscwrt.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwrt.us)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"We're not going to make America great again. It was never that great."*

*New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, August 15, 2018*

*"I think to myself, exactly when did you think America was great?" That, "...past never in fact really existed, this notion of greatness."*

*(Former) Attorney General Eric Holder, March 27, 2019*

*"Make America great again."*

*President Donald Trump, pretty much every day since June 16, 2015*

Yet more validation for the "Breneiser Theory of Politics" that there exists no educational requirement to be an elected (or appointed) public official. You can say pretty much any dumb thing you want or prove just how ignorant of history you are and still rise to the pinnacle of the political stratosphere in America.

"Great" is, of course, entirely subjective. The North certainly felt it was "great" that it had prevailed victorious after four years of fratricidal war that left hundreds of thousands dead and millions injured, but the South surely did not describe its ruined country and industry and the loss of its antebellum identity as "great."

One would think the three gentlemen opining on American greatness would, themselves, extol the virtues. Governor Cuomo's grandparents emigrated from Italy and Sicily to seek a new life in America, and their son and grandson would rise to occupy the executive mansion of one of the most important and influential states since the time of the country's founding. It is difficult to believe any of three generations of Cuomos could conclude they had not experienced American promise and greatness.

Attorney General Holder would become the first African-American to hold the post as the nation's chief law enforcement officer during the administration of the first African-American president. Unthinkable at the time of the Civil War (and even a generation or so ago), it is hard to imagine anyone thinking such achievement as anything other than "great" in a country where their forbears were once declared by the Supreme Court to be not even entitled to citizenship.

And then there is Donald Trump. Grandson of a German immigrant, he inherited and expanded the family business to such an extent that he would become a billionaire, an author and a television personality before assuming the highest office in the land: the presidency of the United States. Only in America can a commoner achieve such greatness.

The first immigrants may have come to America as long as 60,000 years ago, and they have continued to arrive ever since from every part of the globe. Not very many have returned to their ancestral homes or emigrated to other countries. They seem to have found something special here, and have continued to build on America's rich bounty and immeasurable resources to produce the greatest nation the world has ever known.

Judging the past on the basis of present-day knowledge and wisdom leaves our generation open to criticism by those yet unborn that will have built on our greatness in the same way we have benefited from that of those who came before us.

So to Governor Cuomo, Attorney General Holder and President Trump I would suggest the American journey has been one of exceptional greatness from the beginning, and each of you, along with millions of others, have benefited from that greatness. Rather than question the past, it is for you...indeed, for all of us...to continue to reach even loftier heights by building a future where America becomes ever greater for those who will follow in our footsteps.

*Craig*

## Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the April meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table to order at 6:20 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on April 9, 2019, for 47 members and guests in attendance. Following a prayer given by Ev Binns and the Pledge of Allegiance, Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited everyone to enjoy dinner and then resumed the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Craig announced that 33 surveys regarding round table issues have been returned. He urged everyone to fill one out since the results will be quite helpful in determining the future for all of us. The survey is available on our website if you did not receive one at previous meetings.

Chair reports were given as follows:

### Preservation

The April meeting of the round table was a success with raising \$140 from our book raffle. Again I wish to thank all of the members who bought tickets or made donations. Special thanks go to our guest speaker, Scott Mingus, for donating one of his books toward the raffle. All of this is greatly appreciated!

The American Battlefield Trust has come out with a new matching grant of \$6.89-\$1 for two battlefields: South Mountain in the area of Crampton's Gap and Shiloh. The 96th Pennsylvania Vol. Infantry with Company G coming from Hamburg, PA, was at Crampton's Gap, and it was one of three battles that were important in its history by helping to break through the Confederate lines in the gap.



The Gettysburg Foundation has successfully raised money to start work on the Farm House. The plan for the house is to: (1) create an interpretive center in the house (2) create a recording studio to do podcasts (3) to create a Conference Room to do classes and presentations (4) space to do breakout sessions, (5) have modern bathrooms and (6) a catering kitchen. Work will be commencing soon and the plan is to have the official ribbon cutting for the house on October 4th during the Gettysburg Foundation's Fall Muster.

That is all for this month! Until next time!

Mark

### **Treasurer's Report**

Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$2993.24 as of March 13, 2019. There is currently \$191.00 available for preservation which includes \$150.00 set aside for a special project. The unencumbered balance as of April's meeting stands at \$2802.24. Our membership stands at 78.

Timothy M. Antosy

### **Meal Captain**

Kathy Little reminded us 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.

### **Programs**

Dave Unger reported that Paul Kahan will be the final speaker of the current campaign. See details of his presentation at the end of the newsletter. He noted that next year's programs are in place with the exception of March. He explained that the surveys with your input are very helpful in determining programs.

### **Joe's Jaunts-Gettysburg**

The next field trip, famously known as "Joe's Jaunts", will take place on Saturday, May 4, 2019. We will visit Harper's Ferry with retired National Park Service Ranger/Historian Dennis Frye. Dennis has spoken multiple times to our round table and is a truly dynamic speaker and guide. You will not forget nor be bored on a tour with Dennis. You can be sure that we will visit some sites not normally seen by the public.

Expect a long day with very minimal and light walking. As usual we will carpool, so contact Joe ASAP if you have not already discussed travel arrangements.

We plan to meet Dennis near Boonesboro around 10:00 a.m. and tour until 3 or 4 p.m. You should bring drinks, snacks, and lunch for yourself. For those who wish, we will stop on the way home at Inn 94, New Oxford, for dinner.

Joe Schaeffer

### **Book Raffle News**

Gary Hertzog brought 13 books which were raffled during the April meeting. He thanked our speaker Scott Mingus for adding one of his books to the raffle.

You may email Gary at gshertzog@verizon.net to purchase any titles outright which are currently listed on our website. The cost is minimal. Thank you once again for your generous support of battlefield preservation.

### **AAP**

The Spring date to work at our sites at Gettysburg National Park is Thursday, June 6.

We will meet at Lowes at 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 six sites, John Buford monument, John Reynolds monument, Gregg's monument located at East Cavalry Field, 18th PA Cavalry located at Big Round Top, WV 1st Cav (Farnsworth) and Benning's Brigade (TX) on South Confederate.

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

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

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### **Berks History Center "Stroll Through History" Rescheduled**

The Berks History Center's *Stroll Through History* is now scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2019, at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. Dig up the past with guided tours of Aulenbach's Cemetery and enjoy history presentations by Civil War enthusiast, Mark Pflum.

Participants, please meet 15 minutes prior to tour start time at the upper parking lot of Francesca's Restaurant (formerly Arner's) on Howard Boulevard, Mt. Penn. Cost is \$5 for members of the Berk's History Center and First Defenders, Berks County Civil War Round Table, and \$8 for non-members. Pre-payment required by calling 610.375.4375.

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### **Election of Officers**

May signals the election of officers for your round table. If you have an interest in becoming an officer, be sure to attend the meeting and contact Craig Breneiser or Mark Quattrock who will assure you a place on the "ballot". No campaigning is necessary!

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## **May Program**

### **The Presidency of U.S. Grant & the Impact on Reconstruction**

Voters went to the polls in 1868 more than three years after Appomattox, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the tumultuous presidency of Andrew Johnson. There was little question that Union hero of the war Ulysses S. Grant would become the 18th president of the United States. With the effects of the war still fresh in public memory and the problematic Reconstruction still uncontrolled, the nation turned to Grant.

Much of the martial capacity imbued in Grant during wartime would not translate into political capabilities required in civilian government administration. Unique political, economic and cultural forces had been unleashed by the Civil War that Grant would need to address during his tumultuous two terms as chief executive frequently overshadowed by his wartime service and the administration's many scandals.

Historical reassessment, though, has shed new light on the business of politics in the decade after the Civil War, and Grant has emerged as an energetic and even progressive executive who faced some of the most difficult issues dealing with Reconstruction and the evolving, expanding United States.



*Dr. Paul Kahan earned a Ph.D. in U.S. history from Temple University. Prior to that, Dr. Kahan earned an M.A. in Modern American History & Literature from Drew University and B.A.s in history and English (with minors in medieval/Renaissance studies and music) from Alfred University. He has published several books, including "Eastern State Penitentiary: A History," "Amiable Scoundrel: Simon Cameron, Lincoln's Scandalous Secretary of War," "The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant: Preserving the Civil War's Legacy," and "The Bank War: Andrew Jackson, Nicholas Biddle, and the Fight for American Finance."*



### **Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, May 14, 2019 Meeting:**

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for May include: Chicken Fried Steak; Meatloaf with mushroom gravy; Haddock with butter crumb top; or Linguini Forno with fresh grilled vegetables tossed in garlic sauce and pasta. Salad, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$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 10, 2019, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*** Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the 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.

# **The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter**

**Summer 2019**



**[www.firstdefenderscwr.us](http://www.firstdefenderscwr.us)**

## **Round Table Business**

Vice President Mark Quattroch called the May meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Inn at Reading on May 14, 2019. Mark offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance for the 47 members and guests present.

Election of Officers for the next campaign was held. All current officers, with the exception of Membership, had agreed to another year of service. No new nominations were made, and the officers were re-elected unanimously. Anyone willing to serve as the Membership Chair should contact Craig Breneiser or Mark Quattroch as soon as possible.

Mark Quattroch gave his monthly report on battlefield preservation and informed us that we currently had \$421.00 in preservation money available. Iris Ringler had made a \$100.00 donation in memory of her friend and RT member Sy Boone who passed away in the spring.

Mark described two initiatives currently available that had matching grants the included South Mountain, Crampton's Gap, Rheems Station, Champion Hill through the American Battlefield Trust. Nominations were made and seconded to send \$210 to each. Mark will bring us up-to-date on Preservation at the September meeting.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, Mark introduced the speaker for the evening, Paul Kahan, who gave an excellent telling of the story of Grant and Reconstruction. Paul has done previous programs for the round table to great acclaim and this one was a great way to end the current round table season.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$2671.91 as of May 15, 2019. there is currently \$481.00 available for preservation which includes \$150.00 set aside for a special project. The unencumbered balance as of April's meeting stands at \$2190.91. Our membership stands at 79 with a new member joining in May.

## **Book Raffle News**

As our 22nd Campaign has drawn to a close, at the risk of you crying "enough", I need to thank all of our members again. THANK YOU for your support of battlefield preservation through the book raffle. It is so satisfying to me that, with our group effort, we are helping to preserve our historical stories for future generations to enjoy. We can all look forward to our 23rd campaign in September and, hopefully, we can enlist a few others to join us in a good and worthy endeavor.

## **Joe's Jaunts**

Joe Schaeffer thanked everyone who attended the "jaunt" to Harper's Ferry. Tim Antosy served as photographer recording the events of the day trip. Twenty-two attended which is an excellent turnout. Joe reported that the first highlight of the day was the Kennedy Farm.

There is currently a trip planned to Gettysburg led by Jim Hessler who will guide us along Longstreet's march and counter-march. The date will be the last Saturday in October.

## **Programs**

Dave Unger reported that all of the speakers are now in place for our 22nd campaign. All signs point to a great year of programs. We thank Dave and his committee for all of their hard work to bring us top-notch speakers.

## **AAP**

Barbara Shafer reported that four round table members worked on six sites on the Gettysburg Battlefield on June 9th. She reminded everyone that another crew will be needed in the fall. Details and dates will be announced in September.

## **Meals**

Meal Captain Kathy Little thanked everyone for ordering meals online and by telephone promptly during this campaign. She hopes for continued cooperation during the new campaign.

## **Website**

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser announced that the results from the recent survey will be posted on the website soon.

## **Newsletter**

Linda Zeiber thanked Craig Breneiser for his excellent monthly messages on the first page of every newsletter and encouraged anyone who may have missed some to be sure to read them. She also thanked Mike Straus for sharing his quips, quotes, and humorous or touching excerpts to share with others in the newsletter. All of our members are avid readers and should be alert to any passages that others may enjoy reading in the newsletter and forward them to Linda. Newsletter contact: Linda Zeiber,

[zeibers@comcast.net](mailto:zeibers@comcast.net)

