

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

January 2019



www.firstdefenderscwrts.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 wait 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 ones self 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 Quattroco 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.

*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

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.

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

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

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.**