

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2019



www.firstdefenderscwrts.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 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*.

*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

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

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."

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.