

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

April 2020



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As a new decade opened in 1860, Americans found themselves living with uncertainty. Passions were high, but those engaging in mature reflection likely saw a future that was anything but clear. There were, of course, those of stature or importance who pontificated on what would or would not happen, and they would exude a confidence borne of their personal beliefs and prejudices. With 160 years of hindsight, we now know most in the United States either sadly miscalculated or were just plain wrong in their prognostications of the future.

At the start of a new decade, we are similarly challenged to see into the future as we face the realities of COVID-19. As happened 160 years ago, there are those who, with the benefit of modern communications capabilities, wax philosophical day-in and day-out about what we should or should not do. Again, those employing mature reflection likely see an uncertain future, and, depending on their usual outlook on life, may see the glass as either half-full or half-empty. Regardless, as this message is being written and the April newsletter is being completed, there seem to be more questions than answers about our future.

We do know, however, the close of our 23rd Campaign is going to be impacted, although we are not certain to what extent. At this point, we can tell you:

- 1. The program scheduled for April 14th HAS BEEN CANCELLED!**
- 2. It is premature to make a decision on our final program scheduled for May 12th or for how we will handle our annual Round Table reorganization. Clearly, though, these are minor considerations when taken in context with the challenges we will face together as a country.**
- 3. A decision on proceeding with "Joe's Jaunt" scheduled for Saturday, May 16th, will be made closer to the event. Jaunt details can be found in the newsletter; think positively, and circle the date on your calendar!**

Together, we will weather this challenge with the same resolve and Divine guidance that allowed previous generations to face theirs. As we do, please take care and stay safe!

Craig

The program and meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table scheduled for Tuesday, April 14th, at the Inn at Reading HAS BEEN CANCELLED!

"From Kirby's Kingdom: Ramifications from the Trans-Mississippi in 1864" presented by Phillip Greenwalt, will be re-scheduled for sometime during our 24th Campaign in 2020-2021.

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the March 10, 2020, meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. at the Inn at Reading with 39 members present. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Linda Zeiber, Craig informed everyone that the business meeting was going to be longer than usual. The issue which was brought to light was discussion of a change of venue for the next campaign. Giannotti's on Pricetown Road is available to be the site of round table meetings, and the price of meals will drop to \$27.00. A motion was made and seconded to relocate to Giannotti's with a vote tally of 26 for and 5 against.

Two new members, Dave and Joan Augustine, were introduced and welcomed. Membership currently stands at 68.

Bruce Englehart reported that Ed Ewing is currently in the Topton Lutheran Home. When Bruce visits, he takes a Civil War quiz book along to question Ed. Bruce thinks that he scores 80% or better with each quiz.

Last month's speaker, Linda Minarek sent a thank-you note for the hospitality shown to her at the March meeting. Linda effectively and confidently portrayed Mary Todd Lincoln. All who attended enjoyed her program immensely.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3580.83 as of March 18, 2020. There is currently \$324.00 available for preservation which includes \$150.00 set aside for a special project. The unencumbered balance as of April's meeting stands at \$3,256.83. Our membership stands at 68. Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Preservation

Vice President Mark Quattroco described a donated print sent to the Round Table from the American Battlefield Trust. The Trust is currently offering a \$4.00:\$1.00 leverage in an effort to obtain available land at Culp's Hill. No actions were taken on this initiative. Mark also reported an update on obtaining liability insurance for our group.

Book Raffle News

Our April should have concluded our special raffle for the Keith Rocco print and 3 other prizes. However, that drawing will need to be re-scheduled. For those who have already participated in buying tickets, thank you for your support of battlefield preservation.

We have received a print from American Battlefield Trust (11 X 14) of the Stonewall Jackson Monument on the Manassas Battlefield. We will probably raffle this print next year in a special raffle. We also received from our two new members (Dan and Joan Augustine) four photographs by Tim Johnson, black & white, and framed. They are images of a spiritual theme on different battlefields such as Lookout Mountain, Gettysburg, and Marye's Heights. We will also offer them in a special raffle next year. Thank you to the Augustines for their contribution and Thank You once again to everyone for your continued support. More information will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

Programs

Dave Unger announced the final program planned for the 23rd Campaign is scheduled for May 12th, and will feature Tom Huntington "In Search of George Gordon Meade."

Joe's Jaunts

The next "jaunt" is now scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2020, in Gettysburg. We will be touring the action on East Cemetery Hill on Day 2 of the battle. Our guide will be Charlie Fennell, and this is one tour you do not want to miss. As in the past, we will carpool or you can meet us there. The tour will be from 9-12, but we have not settled on a meeting place yet. Expect some walking, although it will not be severe, partly in town and partly on East Cemetery Hill. You will be on your feet for about 3 hours. For those who wish, we will schedule a pub again for our post-tour lunch. Also, since it is May and the days are longer, some may want to stay and spend more time on their own in the afternoon. We expect a very good tour and hope many will attend.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little welcomed all in attendance and reminded everyone who signs up for programs on the website they should receive two (2) confirmations after placing your order. If you ever have issues making your reservations or think they may not have been successful online, please give Kathy a call and she will help. Her number is found in the "Dinner Reservations" portion of the newsletter which follows.

Adopt-A-Position

Our Spring 2020 date to work on our sites is **Thursday, May 28**. We meet at 8:30 am at Lowe's and carpool to Gettysburg or you can meet us in Gettysburg. We work at several sites then break for lunch on your own. We have been having lunch at Appalachian Brewing Company. After lunch we finish working on the remaining sites. We also go to Gettysburg Baking for some delicious things to bring home. If there are several people who are not able to volunteer on the selected date, an alternate date could be arranged.

The purpose of the Adopt A Position (AAP) program is for volunteers to provide labor for a selected site(s) at Gettysburg National Military Park that would not be done due to budget and/or staffing. Volunteers provide time and labor for maintenance of the site. The Park provides the tools.

A 2-year commitment is required of volunteers to work on site on selected day during the spring and fall program dates.

First Defenders Civil War Round Table has adopted six sites:

General John Reynolds

Equestrian monument is west of Gettysburg on Chambersburg Pike (US 30). The monument was created in 1898 and dedicated in 1899. Reynolds was one of the first to die at Gettysburg. He was the highest-ranking officer (on either side) to be killed in the 3-day battle. General Reynolds has 4 different bronze monuments and 1 granite monument at Gettysburg.

John Buford

The monument is located west of Gettysburg on Chambersburg Pike (US 30). It was erected in 1892 and dedicated on July 1, 1895.

Gregg Cavalry Shaft

The monument is located at East Cavalry Battlefield to the left of Gregg Avenue used only for foot traffic. It was dedicated on October 15, 1884. The monument is at the location where the 1st Michigan of Custer's brigade clashed with Stuart's Confederates. The monument was altered in 1960-1970. From 1985-1987 it was rehabilitated and preserved in 1993.

18th PA Cavalry

The monument is located south of Gettysburg on South Confederate Avenue. It was dedicated in 1889.

1st West Virginia Cavalry

The monument is south of Gettysburg on Taneytown Road north of Pleasanton Avenue. It was dedicated on September 28, 1898. (First Defenders Civil War Round Table member Gary Hertzog presented a program on Brigadier General Elon Farnsworth who perished at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863.)

Benning's Brigade Marker

The marker is located south of Gettysburg on Confederate Avenue. The marker details the Confederate movements on July 2 and July 3, 1863.

FYI from Barbara Shafer

Last spring Barbara took a tour with Lucas Flickinger, head of Gettysburg Monument Preservation. She had an opportunity to tour the cannon shop, the only dedicated shop of its kind in the National Park Service. The following are three of many things that she learned:

1. There are currently 372 cannons on the Gettysburg Battlefield.
2. The cost of removing each cannon for repair, stripping the paint, refurbishing, and painting, costs \$13,000.
3. Once all of the 410 cannons are restored to the field. Fifty-four of the tubes (13%) will be reproduction tubes. All of the bronze tubes on the field are original CW era guns. The collection includes tubes from both Northern and Southern foundries.

Remaining Program of the 23rd Campaign		
<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
5-12-2020	Tom Huntingdon	"In Search of George Gordon Meade"