

# The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2020, the 24th Campaign



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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

*The American Crisis, Thomas Paine, 1776*

Though not of our "preferred" historical period, there can be little question that Paine's words from 245 years ago echo as strongly today as they did then. Regardless of our political stripe, we all recognize the United States today is much different than it was when we last met in March. Indeed, some of the beliefs and opinions that now seem commonplace are irreconcilable and incomprehensible with the understanding we have developed of the American Civil War during the many years we have met together or studied independently with "the masters."

First, we should all heed Paine's warning as we approach yet another "most important election in our history." Regardless of your political stripe, it is our duty as U.S. citizens to pay attention to the issues facing us now and into the future and to be certain to cast our vote accordingly on November 3rd. Whatever happens, we are all stakeholders in the continuing drama that is the "American Experience."

We also share a smaller common universe: the First Defenders Civil War Round Table. Our 24th Campaign is about to start, and this will be markedly different than the 23 that have passed into history. While still suffering the effects of COVID-19, we hope to be able to deliver a "blended" meeting format by holding in-person dinner sessions *AND* broadcasting our programs virtually. Regardless which format suits you, we hope **EVERYONE** will be re-enlisting for a campaign that is shaping up to be one of our best ever!

Please review the newsletter carefully as it contains detailed information about the upcoming campaign plans! And, **STAY SAFE!**

For the Glory,

*Craig*

## Round Table Business

The Board of the First Defenders CWRT met on August 13, 2020, to discuss the upcoming campaign. Items for discussion will be shared with the membership during the September meeting. Please see Linda Zeiber if you would like to have the minutes from the meeting.

With COVID-19 dominating our lives, the most important issue was the procedure for holding meetings going forward with the new campaign. After much discussion, it was decided that we will begin the campaign in September with a hybrid format. A limited number of members will be able to attend the meeting in-person at Giannotti's, our new location. State mandates limit the number of diners allowed inside eating establishments to 25. For those choosing to avoid attending in person, meetings will be presented online. Since all of this is new for the Round Table, adjustments and changes will certainly need to be made as we venture into the COVID/virtual world.

### Membership

It's time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2020-2021. Please fill out the membership form found on the website, and return it with your check as soon as possible. The deadline for payment is October 13, 2020. If you plan to pay your dues in person at the September or October meeting, please be sure to fill out **the renewal form** and **bring it along** with your payment.

### Book Raffle News

For those members who choose to attend our meetings virtually and still want to help with our preservation efforts, you can purchase tickets by mailing your donations to Gary Hertzog at the address below. Tickets will be available at 7 for \$5. You may make as many \$5 purchases as you desire. When your donation is received, your name will be written on the correct number of tickets and placed in the basket. Since you are not physically present, you will not know the books being presented or be able to collect your book that evening, but you may make your selection from our bookshelf list which is found on our website. You may make your selection at any time and we will reserve your selection until we meet again "in person." We will not send any books through the postal system or any other delivery service. Some of you have not been interested in the book raffle, but still like to donate to battlefield preservation. You may continue to do this by sending your donation to:

Gary Hertzog  
131 Knittle Rd.  
Kutztown, PA. 19530

*Make checks payable to: "First Defenders Civil War Round Table!"*

In October, we will conclude our special raffle of Keith Rocco's print "Assault on Beverly's Ford---the 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry at Brandy's Station, June 9, 1863". Virtual participants may also purchase tickets for this raffle with the same \$5 purchases for 7 tickets. Please clearly state whether your purchase is for the special raffle or the monthly drawing.

Thank everyone for their support of our preservation efforts. We are helping to make a difference! THANK YOU!!! Gary

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## AAP

**From the National Park Website:**

**The 2020 Adopt A Position schedule has been suspended for the rest of the 2020 calendar year. We regret any inconvenience this has caused.**

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### September Program

#### Grant's Next Chapter: Vicksburg, Chattanooga & the Rise of U.S. Grant



Ulysses S. Grant had finished one volume of his celebrated memoirs describing the aftermath of Vicksburg during the summer of 1863. He would begin the next volume with the Battles for Chattanooga that fall. This editorial narrative transition would coincide with a similar shift in the trajectory of Grant's career, a turning point from winning general to the

general who would win the war. As Vicksburg closed out one chapter, Chattanooga would begin another that would witness the rise of U.S. Grant.



*Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., has become one of the most popular and energetic speakers in the modern Civil War community, and is now a favorite of the First Defenders. Kicking off a campaign for the third year in a row, Chris has previously regaled the Round Table with stories about Stonewall Jackson's last days, U.S. Grant's final battle, Richard S. Ewell at Gettysburg and the Battle that Wasn't: the Mine Run Campaign. A professor of journalism at St. Bonaventure University. Editor-in-chief of the popular Emerging Civil War series of current topics, Chris has written numerous books for the ECW library and continues to provide field tours, most especially of the Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness & Spotsylvania National Military Park where he actually resides on hallowed ground at Stevenson Ridge.*



## Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020

### Meeting & Program:

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for September are:

- Grilled chicken with rice & mixed vegetables
- Broiled haddock with baked potato & mixed vegetables
- Eggplant parmesan

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. 4, 2020, 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 Giannotti's, 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 Round Table 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. *THE MEAL COST AT GIANNOTTI'S IS \$27.00!* THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

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**Note: Current state dining regulations limit parties to a maximum of 25. We regret that Giannotti's and the Round Table can only accept the first 25 reservations that are received; therefore, don't delay in making your RSVP!**

## 24th Campaign Programs

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Program</b>
8 SEP 2020	Chris Mackowski	<i>Grant's Next Chapter: Vicksburg, Chattanooga &amp; the Rise of U.S. Grant</i>
13 OCT 2020	Ron Kirkwood	<i>Too Much for Human Endurance</i>
10 NOV 2020	Jay Jorgensen	<i>Presidents at Gettysburg</i>
8 DEC 2020	Kevin Rawlings	<i>We Were Marching on Christmas Day</i>
12 JAN 2021	Joe Schaeffer	<i>"Help Yourself and God Will Help You": the Birth, Life &amp; Death of the CSS Alabama</i>
9 FEB 2021	Hallie Vaughn	<i>Dr. Mary Edwards Walker - A Living History Portrayal</i>
9 MAR 2021	Phillip Greenwalt	<i>From Kirby's Kingdom: Ramifications from the Trans-Mississippi in 1864</i>
13 APR 2021	Robert Dunkerly	<i>The Confederate Surrender at Greensboro</i>
11 MAY 2021	Tom Huntington	<i>In Search of George Gordon Meade</i>



Joining a virtual First Defenders Civil War Round Table "GoToMeeting" session is easier than ever. Round Table members will either receive the meeting ID to be entered at [GoToMeeting.com](https://gotomeeting.com), or they will receive an email with a meeting link. Once the ID is entered or the meeting link is clicked, they will instantly join the GoToMeeting session. Attendees will be given the option to attend by computer, tablet or smartphone to hear and see the program, or they can call into the number provided to just listen in.

Once in the meeting, you will use the control panel on the right to participate in the meeting. Attendees will see what may be shared on the screen and hear the conversations. During the brief business meeting, an opportunity will be made available for virtual attendees to make any comments. It is recommended that virtual attendees use a wired headset for optimal audio quality, and it's best to turn off any other wireless devices nearby as they can sometimes interfere with the audio signal.

For additional information, including a brief explanatory video, navigate to:

<https://support.goto.com/meeting/help/how-to-join-a-meeting-g2m030001>

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**FOLLOWING IS THE VIRTUAL INVITATION FOR THE SEPTEMBER PROGRAM. (This information will also be emailed to all members with an email address on file.)**

**First Defenders Civil War Round Table - September Program  
Tue, Sep 8, 2020 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM (EDT)**

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/584236357>

You can also dial in using your phone.

**United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+18722403212)**

Access Code: **584-236-357**

**New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/584236357>**