

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2019, the 23rd Campaign



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January 10, 1862, a weary and frustrated Abraham Lincoln, plagued by public impatience with military inaction in a war he did not want, sadly proclaims, "The bottom is out of the tub."

And so it might seem as we face difficult choices for our coming campaign. Membership has declined over the past few years and we are now faced with new requirements from the Inn at Reading that will necessarily increase our dinner costs and further threaten the vitality and future of our organization. What to do...

We have been blessed with stable meal prices for the past decade, but we now have no choice but to raise the cost from \$25 to \$32 beginning in September. Additionally, the deadline for reservations has been moved from noon on the Friday preceding the meeting to Tuesday...a full week...in advance. While we have been able to negotiate a reduced monthly minimum attendance requirement, we also know participation at our programs during the 22nd Campaign was lower. As Lincoln bemoaned the previous April while waiting for troops to arrive for protection of the national capital, "Why don't they come?"

The Program Committee has worked hard to schedule interesting speakers and topics that reflect the interests expressed by the membership during the survey conducted last spring. That survey also told us you overwhelmingly support the dinner program format; many of us do not remember when costs were last raised, but that time is now at hand. We hope you can continue to stand with us.

There is something for everyone. Good food, great friends and outstanding programs on the second Tuesday of every month from September through May. Although there may be difficulties ahead, I remain optimistic our Round Table, "will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature" as First Defenders rally again on September 10th!

Craig

Round Table Business

The Board of the First Defenders CWRT met on July 23, 2019, to discuss the upcoming campaign. Items for discussion will be shared with the membership during the September meeting. Please see Linda Zeiber, Recording Secretary, if you would like to have the minutes from the meeting.

Membership

It's time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2019-2020. Please fill out the membership form found on the website, and return it with your check as soon as possible to Lori Border. The deadline for payment is October 8, 2019. 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. (A copy of the renewal form is included with this newsletter and can also be found on the website.)

Preservation/Book Raffle

Following last campaign's successful endeavors to save CW battlefields and historical areas, this campaign we have the privilege of making available to our members two historical prints.

The first is Don Troiani's print of the Irish Brigade at Fredericksburg on December 12, 1862. The print is entitled "Garryowen" and is signed and numbered (164 of 1000). The print measures 37" X 22".

The second print is Keith Rocco's "Assault on Beverly's Ford Road" the 8th Illinois Cavalry at Brandy Station on June 9, 1863. This print is also signed and numbered (1365 of 1863). The print measures 12" X 18".

Either print is an excellent illustration of CW history and would be an elegant and noteworthy addition to someone's home. Both prints will be made available to our members through two special raffles. Additional information will be made available at our first meeting. Thank you for your support of the raffles and helping to preserve America's past.

Preservation Corner

Vice President and Preservation Guru Mark Quattrock has put together a detailed report regarding preservation during the 22nd Campaign. The total amount raised and donated by the Round Table came to \$1620. With available leverages offered by various organizations, the actual amount was \$18,793 for Season 22. Looking at all of the campaigns, the amount raised is \$34,125 resulting in \$277,811 with leverages.

Mark has all of the donations with their matching grants listed in his report. Copies of his report are available through Linda Zeiber. Please ask if you would like one.

There are currently 3 American Battlefield Trust Matching grants running including Gettysburg, Stones River, TN, and Perryville Battlefield. These will be discussed at the September meeting.

Save the Date for AAP

The fall date to work at our sites at Gettysburg National Military Park is Thursday, September 26, 2019.

We will meet at Lowes at 8:30 a.m. 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 have 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 Avenue.

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

Our spring volunteers included Roger Cotterill, Gary Hertzog, Kathy Little, Barbara Shafer, Bob Stauffer, and Don Stripling. Our group tackled a lot of weeds at the WV 1st Cav (Farnsworth) site, and the other sites had minimal maintenance of the monuments.

Adopt-A-Position 2018 had 1621 volunteers that worked 5371.75 hours at Gettysburg National Military Park. Projects worked on were painting, replacing fences, and clearing brush in addition to the regular maintenance of the monuments.

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.

If you are unable to volunteer on the designated date and are interested in participating in AAP, please let us know and we will try to arrange an alternate date.

Joe's Jaunts

During the July Board meeting, a discussion ensued about the possibility of using buses once again for Joe's jaunts. Various details were considered to returning to the transportation of former round table trips. While this is feasible, Joe had a conversation with LBG Jim Hessler who will be leading the October 26th trip to Gettysburg. Jim indicated that since we will be visiting some privately-owned sites, access is difficult, and the owners of these sites discourage buses. Jim is aware of the need for bathroom breaks.

The next journey with Joe will be on Saturday, October 26, 2019, to Gettysburg. The topic is Longstreet's March and Counter-March which took place on July 2, 1863. James Hessler will be our guide as he was on last October's Sickles' tour.

We will meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Gettysburg Heritage Center (formerly the Wax Museum). They have bathrooms, snacks, and drinks available. The tour will commence at 9 a.m. As in the past, we will be carpooling. Please let Joe know by email at jschaeffer@edgeabstract.com or phone at 610-334-2029 if you are planning to attend and if you wish to drive or be a passenger. Those who need to can assemble for the ride that morning at Joe's office.

We expect to finish around noon and, for those who wish, enjoy lunch at a pub. Any suggestions for a post-tour pub trip are welcome. As usual, we will split the cost of the guide among the attendees, and the cost of lunch is your own. There will be minimal walking, and the weather in late October should be mild.

Friends, family, and non-members of the round table are welcome to join us. If you have questions, please call, email or see Joe at the September/October meeting.

September Program:

The Great Battle Never Fought: Mine Run

It would be the last meeting between Major General George Gordon Meade and his Southern nemesis Robert E. Lee before Ulysses S. Grant would usurp the Eastern Theatre spotlight in the spring of 1864. Facing immense political pressure to engage the Army of Northern Virginia again in battle, Meade spent the post-Gettysburg fall of 1863 instead engaged in cat-and-mouse generalship with Lee. The dwindling campaign season would come to a head along the banks of a small Orange County, Virginia, stream called Mine Run. There, in late November, George Meade would choose to sacrifice himself instead of his men.



One of the most popular First Defenders CWRT speakers, 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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ATTENTION!

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There are TWO major CHANGES for meal reservations. The Reading Inn has raised the prices for the meals at our meetings. The price will now be \$32.00.

The second CHANGE is the date for the reservations. The reservation MUST be in by the TUESDAY before our meeting date. For September, your reservation must be made no later than noon TUESDAY, September 3, 2019. These changes were made by the Inn, so mark your calendars! See you in September.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019

Meeting:

If possible please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for Sept. include: Stuffed Chicken with Sausage and Sage; Simmered Beef with Portabella Mushrooms; Potato Crusted Cod with Dill Cream Sauce; 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 \$32.00 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, TUESDAY Sept. 3, 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 TUESDAY 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.**

23rd CAMPAIGN PROGRAMS		
DATE	SPEAKER	PROGRAM
10-8-2019	Jeffry Wert	Civil War Barons
11-12-2019	Wally Heimbach	Phil Kearny: Soldier of Fortune
12-10-2019	Paula Gidjunis	The 128th Pennsylvania Volunteers
1-14-2020	Dave Fox	Col. Charles Albright & the 32nd PVI
2-11-2020	Linda Minarik	Mary Todd Lincoln: A Living History Portrayal
3-10-2020	Dave Unger	From Soldiers to Governors
4-14-2020	Phillip Greenwalt	From Kirby's Kingdom: Ramifications from the Trans-Mississippi in 1864
5-15-2020	TBA	



**FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2019-2020**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

☐

I would like to have Civil War-related emails announcements received by the Round Table forwarded to me (Opt out any time by notifying the Webmaster.)

Annual Membership fee of **\$25 is due by October 8, 2019.**

Please make the check payable to **The First Defenders CWRT** and mail to:

Lori Border
30 East 40th Street
Reading, PA 19606

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

October 2019



www.firstdefenderscwr.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

<St. Louis, MO> The 3rd Civil War Round Table Congress has concluded by making more progress in a single day than has the 116th U.S. Congress in the nine months since it was gavelled into session. Not a high bar to clear, but we digress.

The CWRT Congress is a collaborative effort intended to bring together Round Tables from around the country to share successes, failures, what works (or not) and how to support and enhance a common desire to focus on the Civil War period.

Round Tables are as varied as the people of the United States. Some are great and successful, while others are struggling mightily. Most are somewhere in a "middle class" that is working to meet current challenges while looking to an uncertain future with as-yet unknown challenges.

The First Defenders fall squarely within this middle class, and the CWRT Congress provided an illuminating opportunity to solicit and discuss strategies for sharing and advancing our Round Table mission for years to come in a rapidly changing society that seems to place less emphasis on the importance of our most significant national calamity (not to mention history, in general).

"Marketing" will become more of a focus during the current campaign as we look for new ways to reach people and recruit new members. Many of us still inhabit a "newspaper world" while trends and technologies have emphasized a more immediate "electronic existence." At the same time, the more simple and less adversarial times of the past have given way to a more contentious (and litigious!) society in which even the most unassuming group or club can become a lightning rod for protest or even be exposed to civil liability. In short, the world in which the First Defenders live is changing, and (with deference to President Lincoln) "the dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present."

There will be more for us to consider as we move forward with the 23rd Campaign, and all of us can be a part in shaping the future of the First Defenders. Are you willing to sign on to support the cause?

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the September 10, 2019, meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. at the Inn at Reading with 45 members present. Ray Kemp was welcomed as a new member. Sad news was announced of the death of Dave Sweigert during the summer break. Dave's wife Elaine informed Craig that donations could be made in Dave's name to St. Peter's UCC Church in Whitfield where a pavilion is being erected honoring him. The round table is also donating money for battlefield preservation in Dave's memory. See the following article "Preservation" for details.

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser showed an example of a glass which is etched with the round table logo to present to speakers throughout the current campaign. Lisa created and designed the etching and is doing the work on these attractive mementos.

Preservation

Season 23 is off to a great start as we raised \$163 for Preservation. This includes \$133 from our Book Raffle and \$33 from our new Print Raffle where in December we will be raffling a Don Troiani print entitled "Garryowen." This print depicts the Irish Brigade at Fredericksburg with Generals Winfield Scott Hancock and Thomas Meagher in the background. Please help support both of our raffles.

At our September meeting, the membership approved two donations to the American Battlefield Trust. Thanks to a very special donation of \$306, we are donating a total of \$472 and are splitting this to put toward two matching grants. The first \$236 is going toward a \$33.94-\$1 matching grant to save 42 acres of the Stones River Battlefield. This makes our total contribution for this donation of \$8009.84.

The 2nd donation of \$236 is going toward a \$2-\$1 matching grant for Fredericksburg and a portion of the battlefield known as the Slaughter Pen. In addition, we are making this donation in the name of Dave Sweigert. Dave was a Charter Member of the round table for 22 years. Dave's favorite battlefield was Fredericksburg, and we all agreed to make this special donation in his name. This makes our total contribution for this donation of \$472.

Having donated a total of \$472, this makes our total contribution to date of \$8482. Thanks to all of you who bought tickets or made donations. All of the money we raised is going toward a good cause and our new season has just begun.

Until next month!

Mark Quattrock
Vice-President

Membership

Membership chair Lori Border announced that it's time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2019-2020 if you have not already done so. 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 8, 2019. If you plan to pay your dues in person at the October meeting, please be sure to fill out **the renewal form** and **bring it along** with your payment. There are 43 paid members currently.

Preservation/Book Raffle

The 23rd Campaign has begun! Thanks to everyone for continuing to support our preservation efforts through the book raffle. As a reminder, over the next 3 months (Oct. to Dec.), we will continue to sell tickets for Don Troiani's "Garryowen" print. That drawing will be held at our December meeting. There are 3 other runner-up prizes. All proceeds from the special drawing will go to battlefield preservation. Gary Hertzog

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone of the changes of times when making reservations. Your reservations are due one week prior to the monthly meeting date. The Inn at Reading has requested this. The October 8 meeting reservations must be made by October 1. Please heed these new guidelines, and keep in mind that the price of dinner is now \$32.00.

Save the Date for AAP

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If you are unable to volunteer on the designated date and are interested in participating in AAP, please let us know and we will try to arrange an alternate date in the future.

Joe's Jaunts

The next journey with Joe will be on Saturday, October 26, 2019, to Gettysburg. The topic is Longstreet's March and Counter-March which took place on July 2, 1863. James Hessler will be our guide as he was on last October's Sickle's tour.

We will meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Gettysburg Heritage Center (formerly the Wax Museum). They have bathrooms, snacks, and drinks available. The tour will commence at 9 a.m. As in the past, we will be carpooling. A sign-up sheet will once again be passed around at the October meeting regarding your intentions of going and/or indicating that you will need a ride. You can also let Joe know by email at jschaeffer@edgeabstract.com or phone at 610-334-2029 if you are planning to attend and if you wish to drive or be a

passenger. Those who need to can assemble for the ride that morning at Joe's office by 6:45 a.m. with a 7 a.m. departure.

We expect to finish around noon and, for those who wish, enjoy lunch at a pub. Any suggestions for a post-tour pub trip are welcome. As usual, we will split the cost of the guide among the attendees, and the cost of lunch is your own. There will be minimal walking, and the weather in late October should be mild.

Friends, family, and non-members of the round table are welcome to join us. If you have questions, please call or email Joe since he will not be at the October meeting.

FYI—submitted by Kathy Little

Penn State University Libraries in partnership with the Richards Civil War Era Center has launched the PA C. W. Deserters Database. It has 24,000 individual records of soldiers, the interactive database allows users to search the compiled records for individual soldiers by name, but also identify groups of soldiers by specific criteria such as blacksmiths who deserted or number of desertions following the Battle of Gettysburg. For more information about the database, or for resources pertaining to C. W. research through the University Libraries, contact Eric Novotny at ecn1@psu.edu or 814-865-1014. For information about the Richards C. W.-Era Center, contact richardscenter@psu.edu or 814-863-0151.

For more information see <https://strategiccommunications.psu.edu>.

October Program:

“Civil War Barons” *presented by Jeffry Wert*

Like every modern conflict, the Civil War mobilized an industrial effort in the North that would dramatically tip the balance of the war and revolutionize the way the United States would marshal its natural and economic resources. Along the way, men like John Deere, Gail Borden, the Studebaker brothers, Robert Parrott and many others would find



themselves an integral part of the war effort and would forever change the industrial fabric of the nation while personally amassing both wealth and power. As a group, they would become "Civil War Barons," and America would never be the same.

Jeffry D. Wert is an award-winning author of nearly a dozen books and innumerable articles and essays on Civil War subjects, and has previously presented programs to the First Defenders. Retired after more than 30 years as a high school history teacher, Jeff holds degrees in history from the Pennsylvania State

University and Lock Haven University. His most recent work, Civil War Barons, focuses on the tycoons, entrepreneurs, inventors and visionaries who forged a Union victory and shaped a post-bellum nation. Jeff resides with his wife, Gloria, in Centre Hall,

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for Oct. include: Greek Stuffed Chicken with Spinach, Feta Cheese, Lemon, Olive Oil; Pork Tenderloin with Peppercorn Sauce; Fried Flounder with Old Bay Crab Sauce; or Vegetables with Penne and Vodka Sauce. Salad, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$32.00 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, TUESDAY Oct. 1, 2019, which is also the deadline for online reservations.

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23rd Campaign Programs

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
10-8-2019	Jeff Wert	"Civil War Barons"
11-12-2019	Wally Heimbach	"Phil Kearny: International Soldier"
12-10-2019	Paul Gidjunis	"The 128th PA Volunteer Infantry"
1-14-2020	Dave Fox	"Col. Charles Albright & the 132nd PVI"
2-11-2020	Linda Minarik	"An Evening with Mary Todd Lincoln"
3-10-2020	Dave Unger	"From Soldiers to Governors"
4-14-2020	Phillip Greenwalt	"From Kirby's Kingdom: Ramifications from the Trans-Mississippi in 1864"
5-12-2020	Tom Huntingdon	"In Search of George Gordon Meade"

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

November 2019



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During a recent trip to Barnes & Noble, I decided to conduct a survey on the subjects of their Civil War offerings. 97 books were on the shelves, and a count showed that 72 of them related specifically to the War itself, battles, armies or related subjects. Another 17 were biographies of well-known, and a few not-so-well-known, generals or lesser luminaries. Four dealt with slavery or Reconstruction, and three focused on politicians or political events. Only one book...a fraction more than one-percent of the available inventory...had a naval theme.

To quote the late Andy Rooney, "Why is that?" Surely herculean efforts to blockade more than 3500 miles of Southern coastline is deserving of mention. The significant efforts to conquer and control the western rivers directly penetrating into the Confederate heartland have more than a few stories worth telling. The titanic struggle between the Monitor and the Merrimack that ushered in the age of steel warships has to be worthy of interest. Yet the seafaring alternatives were limited to a single tome on the rather swashbuckling adventures of the C.S.S. Shenandoah as it circumnavigated the globe in 1864-65.

The financial impact on the North in its quest to save the union amounted to some \$6.8 billion. Of that, only \$587 million was allocated to naval expenditures, a paltry 8.6% of the total. Yet the return on that investment was astonishing, far exceeding in results that of the land forces on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Even our own Round Table membership survey last winter gave short shrift to naval themes as interest placed below "Unusual Subjects" and just above "Politics" (which may have more to do with modern political frustrations than those of the Civil War era). A recent lecture I gave to a Round Table left

many attendees aghast at the breadth and impact of the adventures, derring-do and table-turning contributions the Navy lent to the war effort.

Every Civil War student should consider indulging in Craig Symonds' *Lincoln and His Admirals* or *War on the Waters* by James McPherson. Both professors are leading lights in the modern historian/author community, and both books provide interesting, insightful and very readable recountings of why the North could not have won the war without those who fought afloat. Check them out today. Just don't expect to find a copy in your local Barnes & Noble.

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the October 8, 2019, meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. at the Inn at Reading with 46 members present. The first order of business was to remind everyone of the latest "Joe's Jaunt" which occurs on October 26. Those interested in going but not driving on their own need to be at Joe's Wyomissing office by 6:45 a.m. If you haven't signed up, before to contact Joe Schaeffer to let him know of your intentions. If you are planning on driving yourself, meet at the Heritage Center at 8:45 a.m. before beginning the tour with LBG Jim Hessler. The tour of Longstreet's March/Counter-march will take about three hours rain or shine. Further details are available in October's newsletter.

Craig reported on his trip to St. Louis to attend the Civil War Round Table Congress with his wife Lisa in October. Among various other issues, they heard discussions on how other round tables across the country function. Three issues came to the forefront for our round table:

1. Should we pursue becoming a charitable organization with the IRS?
2. We need a set of by-laws which we currently do not have.
3. Should we have liability insurance?

Craig asked for input from members regarding our round table. Several items were discussed regarding issues such as our "guest" policy and the cost of liability insurance. More discussion is encouraged in upcoming meetings.

Preservation

Mark Quattrock explained the donation made in Dave Sweigert's memory in October. He then gave a listing of the most recent matching grants available for battlefield preservation—

New Market Heights	\$2:1
Wilderness	\$10.43:1
Perryville	\$5.85:1
Shenandoah/Bushong Farm	\$14.00:1
Bristoe Station	\$539:1

The money that makes such an incredible leverage for Bristoe Station is from a one million dollar federal government fund. Mark is eager to discuss these offerings at length during the November meeting.

Mark also gave an update about the Spangler Farm which has been in the hands of the Gettysburg Foundation for restoration. A classroom has been completed in the farmhouse which will host a leadership program. There is also a podcast filming center. Everything on the farm is now new or restored. To visit the farm, you must still buy a ticket at the Visitors' Center at Gettysburg. A walking trail is in the works which will connect the Visitors' Center to the farm.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3052.17 as of October 10, 2019. There is currently \$325.00 available for preservation which includes \$150.00 set aside for a special project. The unencumbered balance as of April's meeting stands at \$2727.17. Our membership stands at 56.

Membership

Membership chair Lori Border announced that it's past time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2019-2020 if you have not already done so. Please fill out the membership form found on the website, and return it with your check as soon as possible. The deadline for payment was October 8, 2019. If you plan to pay your dues in person at the November meeting, please be sure to fill out **the renewal form** and **bring it along** with your payment. There are 55 paid members currently.

Preservation/Book Raffle

Thanks to everyone for continuing to support our preservation efforts through the book raffle. As a reminder, over the next 2 months (Nov. to Dec.), we will continue to sell tickets for Don Troiani's "Garryowen" print. That drawing will be held at our December meeting. There are 3 other runner-up prizes. All proceeds from the special drawing will go to battlefield preservation.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone of the changes of times when making reservations. Your reservations are due one week prior to the monthly meeting date. The Inn at Reading has requested this. The November 12 meeting reservations must be made by November 5. Please heed these new guidelines, and keep in mind that the price of dinner is now \$32.00.

Programs

Dave Unger announced the speaker for the November meeting which is member Wally Heimbach. Wally will be talking about Phil Kearny. In December Paula Gidjunis will discuss the 128th PA Regiment whose commander was the Mayor of Reading.

Website

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser reported that there is a new tab on our website, "Civil War Ancestors". Two stories have been added. Read about Nancy Melcher's great, great grandfather who was a Medal of Honor winner and more!

November 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 November 12, 2019 Meeting:

Please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for November include: Roasted Turkey with Cornbread Stuffing; Meatloaf with Mushroom Gravy; Stuffed Flounder; or Rigatoni with Zesty Vegetable Marinara. Soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$32.00 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, TUESDAY Nov. 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 **TUESDAY** 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.**

23rd Campaign Programs

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
11-12-2019	Wally Heimbach	"Phil Kearny: International Soldier"
12-10-2019	Paula Gidjunis	"The 128th PA Volunteer Infantry"
1-14-2020	Dave Fox	"Col. Charles Albright & the 132nd PVI"
2-11-2020	Linda Minarik	"An Evening with Mary Todd Lincoln"
3-10-2020	Dave Unger	"From Soldiers to Governors"
4-14-2020	Phillip Greenwalt	"From Kirby's Kingdom: Ramifications from the Trans-Mississippi in 1864"
5-12-2020	Tom Huntingdon	"In Search of George Gordon Meade"

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

December 2019



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dixie Betrayed: How the South Really Lost the Civil War by David Eichner presents an interesting perspective on the reason why the Confederacy failed to achieve its independence. Hardly unique within the Lost Cause post-mortem bibliography, Eichner's thesis focuses largely on the diverse and oxymoronic political environment and characters that tried to give birth to a national government in a state rights mentality. In the end, if one accepts Eichner's view, the Confederacy succumbed less to Yankee bullets than to an internal raging cancer.

Though Southerners of the time may be loathe to agree, Abraham Lincoln accurately predicted the fate of representative government more than 25 years before in an address to the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, Illinois when he spoke of the threats to a constitutional republic. Lincoln would prophetically claim...

"Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant to step the ocean and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies of Europe, Asia, and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest, with a Bonaparte for a commander, could not by force take a drink from the Ohio or make a track on the Blue Ridge in a trial of a thousand years. At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer. If it ever reach us it must spring up amongst us; it cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen we must live through all time or die by suicide."

Not yet 30 years of age, this speech would establish Lincoln's oratorical credit. But, it also would speak to what nearly happened to the government he would rise to lead and what almost certainly contributed to the demise of the Southern nation at the same time.

Given the sectionalism we face in our own day, it does not require the literary imagination of a Hawthorne or Dickens, or revolutionary zeal of a Marx or Mao, to see that Lincoln's warning from nearly 200 years ago still rings true. "If destruction be our lot we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen we must live through all time or die by suicide."

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the November 12, 2019, meeting to order at 6:24 p.m. at the Inn at Reading with 51 members present. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer, Craig shared news about former member Ed Ewing. For many years, Ed shared his large collection of Civil War artifacts with us. Ed is suffering from Parkinson's Disease and currently resides at the Lutheran Home at Topton.

Craig then reported the recent death of Dr. James/Bud Robertson, 89. Craig recommended checking his podcasts about various Civil War topics. He was a notable historian who will be missed.

There have been several issues with the Inn at Reading. Beginning this year, we have been charged with various fees for a microphone, room rental, etc. The quality of the food seems acceptable as well as the service. If there is discontent with our "host", be sure to share your thoughts with Craig.

Preservation

Thanks to all of you who bought tickets for the Book Raffle, our Troiani Print Raffle, and who made donations. Your continued support of our preservation efforts is greatly appreciated. We were able to raise a total of \$176 for preservation which, included \$136 for the book raffle and \$40 for the print raffle. Just a reminder to all of you there is still time to purchase tickets for our print raffle at the December meeting. Best of luck to everyone who purchased tickets!!

The American Battlefield Trust has come out with by far the largest matching grant in its history as an organization. The matching grant is **\$539 to \$1** and the Trust is looking to purchase 118 acres at the Bristoe Station Battlefield in VA. The membership unanimously approved the round table making a **\$200** donation toward this matching grant. The total contribution from us with the matching grant is **\$107,800**. This is our biggest contribution yet in the history of the Round Table.

As of now we have raised this season \$825. Of this we have donated \$672 and our total contribution for this season with all of the matching grants is \$116,282.

Looking at all of the seasons with the Round Table, the total amount that we have donated is \$34,797 and the total contributions we have made with all of the matching grants is \$394,093. The battlefields that we have donated money for is vast, stretching across the United States to as far as Colorado.

Many of you asked the question how the American Battlefield Trust is able to do so many matching grants and especially of the size of \$539-\$1 matching. With the \$539-\$1 matching grant the Trust is expecting to receive \$1 million dollars from the Federal Government that they approved for preservation. The Trust has also received money from states, i.e. Virginia. Similarly, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Association has received matching grants offered for Cedar Creek and currently with New Market Battlefield has come from both state money and private donors. You can truly see how important these matching grants are when organizations like us raise a small amount of money towards these matching grants that give us the "biggest bang for the buck." This is how we as an organization can make a difference and to help preserve our Civil War history and battlefields.

Until next time! Have a Happy Thanksgiving and see you in December!

Mark Quattrochio
Vice President

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3574.03 as of November 13, 2019. There is currently \$301.00 available for preservation which includes \$150.00 set aside for a special project. The unencumbered balance as of April's meeting stands at \$3273.03. Our membership stands at 61.

Membership

Membership chair Lori Border announced that we currently have 61 members. The number is headed in the right direction, but we are well below former numbers. Share the news of the Round Table with friends and family members. Membership is available throughout the campaign. Please note that it is necessary to fill out the membership form and return it with your membership dues. The form is available on the website or from Lori.

Preservation/Book Raffle

Book Shelf News

The months have flown by and the end of the year is fast approaching. In December, our "Garryowen" raffle will come to an end. Thanks to everyone for the support you have shown for our preservation efforts through the special raffle. Your generous contributions to the "Garryowen" Raffle along with your continued support of our monthly book raffle, have made it possible to continue to help preserve Civil War battlefields and our history. THANK YOU!!! Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to All!!

Gary Hertzog

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone that our next meeting occurs on December 10, 2019. All reservations are due by December 3, 2019. A few members have expressed concern about having our meetings at the Inn at Reading. If you have any thoughts or concerns, please share them with Craig or Kathy. Keep in mind that the price of dinner is now \$32.00.

Programs

Dave Unger announced the speaker for the December meeting Paula Gidjunis who will speak about the 128th Pennsylvania Volunteers, whose commander was the Mayor of Reading. Dave Fox will give January's program about Colonel Charles Albright and the 32nd Pennsylvania Volunteers. February will bring Linda Minarik who will be portraying Mary Todd Lincoln.

Website

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser reported that there is a new link on our website's Links Page which connects you to the Hagerstown Civil War Round Table. Additionally, you can now connect with the Society for Women and the Civil War. It is dedicated to recognizing the efforts of women who lived through or participated in the Civil War. It is helpful for researchers, reenactors or simply to honor these women of the past. The Society sponsors an annual conference and a quarterly e-journal.

If anyone has websites that you would like added to our links page, please contact Lisa Breneiser. Lisa is also working on an Adopt-A-Position webpage. Stay tuned!

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer reported that 16 members attended the October "jaunt" to Gettysburg guided by LBG Jim Hessler learning about Longstreet's March/Counter-march. All who attended agree that it was a great trip. We were able to visit several private properties which are not available to the public.

Joe is looking for another trip in May, but no details are available at this time.

By the Christmas Hearth

--published by Harper's Weekly in 1865 Christmas edition

To-day at the home beside the hearth,
 Warm with the ruddy embers' glow,
We keep our Christmas, so unlike
 The Christmas of a year ago,
When in the camp at earliest dawn
 The grimy-throated cannon woke
Our slumbers, and with in the East
 The golden light of morning broke.

Ah! Then the smoke of battle hung
 Its sulphurous cloud our land above,
And bitter feud and hatred filled
 Brave hearts that should have warmed with Love;
But now at home beside the hearth
 We keep the day with song and cheer,
While from each spire the Christmas bells
 Ring out with voices sweet and clear.

Bring holly, rich with berries red,
 And bring the sacred mistletoe;
Fill high each glass, and let hearts
 With kindest feelings flow;
So sweet it seems at home once more
 To sit with those we hold most dear,
And keep absence once again
 To keep the Merry Christmas here.

May we never forget the hundreds of thousands who never had the first Christmas of peace in 1865.

December's Program

"The 128th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry" *presented by Paula Gidjunis*

Men of the 128th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry men hailed from the counties of Bucks, Berks and Lehigh. They were "nine-month men," enlisting in August 1862 in response to the fear of invasion of the North by the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. The 128th would earn its baptism by fire at the Battle of Antietam in Maryland after barely one month of service. With scant opportunity for military training, they would pay the price with heavy casualties. By their time to muster out and return home was nearing, these veteran soldiers would find themselves in the thick of the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863, and they possibly were the catalyst resulting in the friendly fire shooting of Confederate General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson.



Paula Gidjunis is a retired middle school Social Studies and adjunct college history teacher, and currently works as a bookkeeper for JPG Photography in Philadelphia. She serves on the board of the Delaware Valley CWRT and chairs its Preservation Committee. Paula also serves on the board of the Historical Society of Montgomery County. She has a Bachelor's degree in History/Education, a certificate in Historical Preservation, a M.B.A. and a M. A. in History from LaSalle University. Paula lives in Glenside, PA, and when not doing something historical is babysitting her toddler grandson.

23rd Campaign Programs

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
12-10-2019	Paula Gidjunis	"The 128th PA Volunteer Infantry"
1-14-2020	Dave Fox	"Col. Charles Albright & the 132nd PVI"
2-11-2020	Linda Minarik	"An Evening with Mary Todd Lincoln"
3-10-2020	Dave Unger	"From Soldiers to Governors"
4-14-2020	Phillip Greenwalt	"From Kirby's Kingdom: Ramifications from the Trans-Mississippi in 1864"
5-12-2020	Tom Huntingdon	"In Search of George Gordon Meade"

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, December 10, 2019
Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for December include: Cornbread Stuffed Chicken with Supreme Sauce; Boneless Ham Steak with Grilled Apples; Key West Salmon; or Basil Pesto Cheese Tortellini with Spinach. Soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$32.00 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, TUESDAY Dec. 3, 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 TUESDAY 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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The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

January 2020



www.firstdefenderscwr.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are with another lap around the sun under our collective belts as we look back at the year just past while looking at it's nascent successor with equal parts of excitement and trepidation. Together, we make and experience history in our time.

For many years, learning from our history has been an American tradition. It seems, though, in our advancing, technology-driven world, history has been relegated to take a back seat in favor of more "exciting" subjects, and those without an understanding of where we have been are "re-writing" our history as they believe it was (or desire it to have been). For all of our interest in the exactness of the sciences, there seems to be a more cavalier view of our past.

Sixty years ago a young, liberal (for the time) New England war hero would move to center stage in the American story. John F. Kennedy knew, lived and was making history, and he recognized there, "...is little that is more important for an American citizen to know than the history and traditions of his country. Without such knowledge, he stands uncertain and defenseless before the world, knowing neither where he has come from nor where he is going. With such knowledge, he is no longer alone but draws a strength far greater than his own from the cumulative experience of the past and a cumulative vision of the future. The future rises out of the past, and a country's history is a statement of the values and hopes which, having forged what has gone before, will now forecast what is to come."

Most of us have some memory of JFK, and as we have lived our lives since his time we have also been creating new chapters in the American story that he urged us to know and understand so that we, too, could "pass the torch to a new generation." In so doing, though, we sorrowfully recognize that not all of our friends and fellow citizens have embraced such knowledge and understanding as we did when we first received the torch (and as Round Table members continue to do today).

As we transition into 2020, the words of Abraham Lincoln are as poignant now as they were in 1862: "Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial

through which we pass will light us down in honor or dishonor to the latest generation." Words which we are honor-bound to remember and to share with all as we embark on a happy, safe and prosperous New Year!

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the December 10, 2019, meeting to order at 6:21 p.m. at the Inn at Reading with 42 members present. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer, Craig introduced two guests, Jim Walters and Rich Jankowski visiting from the Old Baldy Round Table in Camden County, New Jersey. Rich announced that the Civil War Congress will be hosted by the Old Baldy Round Table on May 1, 2021.

Winners were announced for the special book raffle:

4th Prize—Tim Antosy

3rd Prize—Roger Cotterill

2nd Prize—Vicki Heffner who won a 30-volume set of Time-Life books

1st Prize—Harry Eisenbise who won the Troiani print

Congratulations to those winners and to everyone who bought tickets during the previous months. Gary Hertzog will announce a second special raffle in his report. See or details in the report below and buy your tickets to participate. Remember that all proceeds are used for battlefield preservation.

President Breneiser announced that we would have an abbreviated business meeting in order to adjourn earlier than usual. Inclement weather was predicted for later in the evening so it was important to get those who travel long distances moving a bit earlier.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy presented his report at the December meeting. Our balance as of December 12, 2019, stood at \$3,583.88 with \$308.00 ear-marked for preservation. The unencumbered balance as of December 12, 2019, is \$3,275.88 with 63 members at this time. Welcome to our newest member Jack Kelly.

Preservation/Book Raffle

Bookshelf News

Congratulations to the winners of the Special Garryowen Raffle---3rd Prize, Tim Antosy, 2nd Prize, Roger Cotterill, 1st Prize, Vicky Heffner, and the Grand Prize, Harry G. Eisenbise. Thank You to all who supported the Garryowen Raffle and, of course, the monthly book raffle.

In January 2020, we will begin another raffle for a magnificent print. Noted military artist Keith Rocco's *"Assault on Beverly's Ford---the 8th Illinois Cavalry at Brandy Station, June 9, 1863"* The assault on Beverly's Ford(part of the Battle of Brandy Station) was what would become the opening battle of the Gettysburg Campaign as Union Cavalry sought to break up the concentration of CSA Cavalry under MG J.E.B. Stuart. Though the battle failed to break up the CSA Cavalry concentration,

Stuart's cavalry was roughly handled by the Union cavalry resulting in a morale boost for the Union cavalry and a case of embarrassment for JEB Stuart.

The print measures 12" X 18" and is signed and numbered (1365 of 1863) by the artist. The raffle will run from January to April 2020 and the ticket prices will be the same as the monthly raffle. There will be 3 other runner-up prizes awarded and they will be revealed at our January meeting.

As before, all proceeds will go to battlefield preservation. This print is a beautiful piece of art and perhaps a more manageable piece to grace the walls of your home than the larger "Garryowen" print. Thanks again for your generous support because we can't do it without YOU!

Programs

Dave Unger announced the speaker for the January meeting will be our own Dave Fox. The programs' committee will meet on January 6, 2020, to plan programs for the 24th campaign of the round table. Dave's program will discuss Colonel Charles Albright and the 32nd Pennsylvania Volunteers. February will bring Linda Minarik who will be portraying Mary Todd Lincoln.

January's Program

Colonel Charles Albright & the 132nd PVI" *presented by Dave Fox*

Charles Albright was born in Berks County, but moved to Carbon County while in his teens. After attending Dickinson College, he became a lawyer and a businessman in Mauch Chunk. Active in local politics, Albright would become a delegate to the 1860



Republican Convention in Chicago that nominated Abraham Lincoln for president. When the Civil War broke out, Albright volunteered for the Union Army and was appointed to the colonelcy of the 132nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry in 1862. Albright and his nine-month command saw action in several major battles during their enlistment, and later he became a colonel in two other regiments before the end of the hostilities in 1865.

After the war he was one of the prosecutors of the infamous Molly Maguires in Carbon County where four miners were hung. In the 1870's Albright would be elected to Congress from Carbon County.

Charles Albright was the great, great uncle of program presenter and long-time First Defender Dave Fox. Dave is a former history teacher at Reading High School, and has previously spoken on the life of General David M. Gregg.



Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, January 14, 2020 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for January include: Teriyaki Grilled Chicken, Asian vegetables and rice pilaf; Beef Stroganoff over egg noodles; Haddock Butter Crumb top; or Stir Fry Vegetables Symphony with white rice. Soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$32.00 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, TUESDAY Jan. 7, 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 TUESDAY 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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23rd Campaign Programs

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
2-11-2020	Linda Minarik	"An Evening with Mary Todd Lincoln"
3-10-2020	Dave Unger	"From Soldiers to Governors"
4-14-2020	Phillip Greenwalt	"From Kirby's Kingdom: Ramifications from the Trans-Mississippi in 1864"
5-12-2020	Tom Huntingdon	"In Search of George Gordon Meade"

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2020



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have long-given a great deal of attention to "masculine" Civil War topics: battles, generals, newspaper editors, politicians and the like. Yet, of the 31 million 1860 inhabitants of the antebellum United States, more than 15 million of them were women. Despite a veritable laundry list of individual and group accomplishments that featured women directly impacting the struggle and a Who's Who of interesting, important members of the "fairer sex" who played a starring role in our national story, we shower far less attention on women that we ought.

Most of us can remember the 1992 presidential campaign when Hillary Clinton clearly indicated she planned on eschewing the "traditional" duties of First Lady in favor of a more active role in political affairs. To some, she would be dismissed as an upstart who failed to "recognize her place." To others, though, she became a role model for the modern woman who would take her place in the halls of government...not to mention many other non-traditional venues...alongside men who had long dominated politics. Less than a quarter-century later, Mrs. Clinton would become the first woman nominated for the presidency by a major political party, and would carry the popular vote while falling short of reaching the Oval Office.

In 1861, there was another woman who viewed herself differently than previous First Ladies. Sometimes styling herself as "Mrs. President," Mary Todd Lincoln was, perhaps, even more of a cultural shock in the stuffy Victorian Age when men were men and women were expected to be deferential to their husbands. Most of the stories handed down through the years have been unkind to Mrs. Lincoln, and she may evoke an even wider range of emotions than has Mrs. Clinton. At the same time, though, we know that President Lincoln was very solicitous of his wife, encouraged her to speak her mind and would talk with her about matters of state. In an age when schooling for women was usually attenuated when compared to their male contemporaries, Abe much appreciated Mary's upbringing and broader education.

Mary Lincoln's story, of course, would turn tragic when her husband was struck down in their moment of triumph, a trauma from which she would never recover. While it is too much to imagine that she would go on to succeed her husband in the White House during the Gilded Age, it is not a stretch to wonder whether John

Wilkes Booth's derringer shot had the unintended consequence of delaying the evolution of women in society. Would Mary Lincoln's outspoken advocacy in the second half of the 19th Century provided women the right to cast a ballot without waiting an additional 50 years?

When studying history, we would be wise to remember Abigail Adams' advice to husband John and the Continental Congress in 1776 to, "remember the ladies."

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the January 14, 2020, meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. at the Inn at Reading with 43 members present. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Linda Zeiber, Craig reminded everyone to be sure to buy raffle tickets. Following dinner, Craig conducted the business meeting beginning at 7:10 p.m.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3797.63 as of January 15, 2020. Last month we took in a total of \$123.00 for preservation giving us a present total of \$281.00 for preservation plus \$150.00 for a special project. Our membership stands at 65. The unencumbered balance as of February's meeting stands at \$3366.63.

Preservation

Vice President Mark Quattrochio shared with us two matching grants offered by the American Battlefield Preservation Trust for Sailor's Creek and Gettysburg. He also had news of a \$24.59:\$1 leverage for preservation at Shepherdstown, VA. Mark will be giving further information about these opportunities at the February meeting.

Mark reported that the Gettysburg annual reenactment for July 1, 2nd, and 3rd has been cancelled. There will be a smaller scale reenactment on the Daniel Lady Farm scheduled for July 4th.

Book Raffle

We're off and running in the New Year with our preservation efforts. For the next three months, you will be able to purchase chances for four prizes in our Special Raffle.

Grand Prize---Keith Rocco's *"the 8th Illinois Cavalry at Brandy Station, June 9, 1863 (12" X 18")*

1st Prize---1886 Print of Gettysburg Battlefield Map (12" X 16")

2nd Prize---2 Volume Set of American Heritage *"Picture History of the Civil War"*

3rd Prize---Bruce Catton's 3 Volume Set *"The Centennial History of the Civil War"*

Tickets are the same price as our monthly book raffle and all funds go to battlefield preservation. The Special Drawing will take place at our April 14, 2020* meeting. *THANKS TO EVERYONE* for helping preserve our civil war heritage!!!

*Note that our meeting will be held on the 155th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's assassination.

Gary Hertzog

Programs

Dave Unger announced the speaker for the February meeting will be Linda Minarik who will be role-playing Mary Todd Lincoln. Members might want to invite wives or other guests who may have an interest for this program.

Dave also reported that there are currently four speakers lined up for next year's campaign. Any members who would consider doing a program should talk to Dave. This is money-saving for the round table and shares the vast knowledge and experiences of our members.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little welcomed all in attendance and urged all who plan to attend in February to have reservations made before noon February 4, 2020. 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.

Joe's Jaunts

Our trip coordinator, Joe Schaeffer, reported that the spring jaunt is still evolving. One topic under consideration is a tour of East Cemetery Hill in Gettysburg. Joe urges you not to pack yet but stay tuned for further information.

February's Program

"Mary Todd Lincoln - A Living History Portrayal" *presented by Linda Minarik*

There is little question that Mary Todd Lincoln is among the most memorable of the First



Ladies who have graced the White House. There is also little question that Mrs. Lincoln was unique in many ways. Well-educated and politically-astute, she announced at a young age she intended to marry a President of the United States, and in March 1861 she fulfilled that destiny. Intensely jealous of her husband, she could not claim a huge number of female confidants. The Civil War would drive a schism in the Todd family, and Mary would experience personal trials that most would find overwhelming. Getting to know Mary Todd Lincoln's story first-hand is interesting, informative and certain to change many long-standing notions about the woman, her family and the man she truly loved. This is a living history portrayal you won't want to miss!

Linda Minarik is a retired teacher from Bethlehem Liberty High School. She has portrayed Mary Todd Lincoln at the Gettysburg sesquicentennial and for dozens of other venues over the past ten years, and can be seen strolling the ground of the Coopersburg Community Day every September.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, February 11, 2020
Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for February include: Cordon Bleu Chicken; Roasted Sirloin of Beef; Crab Stuffed Shrimp; or Cheese Manicotti with Marinara Sauce. Soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$32.00 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, TUESDAY Feb. 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 TUESDAY 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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23rd Campaign Programs		
<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
3-10-2020	Dave Unger	"From Soldiers to Governors"
4-14-2020	Phillip Greenwalt	"From Kirby's Kingdom: Ramifications from the Trans-Mississippi in 1864"
5-12-2020	Tom Huntingdon	"In Search of George Gordon Meade"

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

March 2020



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Political machinations by the minority party to outflank the majority! Complex parliamentary maneuvers to gain an advantage! Withholding key information from the other side! Questioning the legitimacy of an office-holder whose election is unacceptable to the losing party! A lack of civility between legislators! Front page headlines and editorials clearly favoring one party over another! How can this be? This is the United States, and, after all, it is 1863!

December of that year would see a new Congress about to assemble. The Republican Party had lost some ground during the 1862 off-year elections, and though it still held a comfortable majority in the Senate, House Democrats had some ideas about how to seize control of the lower chamber. The House, of course, is where bills to raise revenue must originate, and Democratic control would allow funding for the Lincoln Administration's war effort to be effectively choked off. And, there would be no chance for a constitutional amendment to make permanent the Emancipation Proclamation. Bi-partisanship on that subject was a non-starter.

And so it would come down to a set of shrewd politicians seeking to outwit and out-manuever each other, replicating generals on a battlefield looking to outflank their enemies. Their conflict, though, would be in the marble and granite columned halls of the newly-completed Capitol where bullets would give way to nearly-as-lethal political daggers.

In the end, the would-be coup would fail, and the schemers would be out-schemed. A different outcome could have resulted in an entirely different history of the United States. Democratic control of Congress would have threatened the war effort by cutting off money, refusing to authorize further critical drafts in 1864 and, most significantly, defeating any chance for passage of the 13th Amendment that would abolish slavery.

Such is how United States history turns. What was "old" is again "new." In a nation founded on the principal of "we the people," it is extraordinary to consider just how often the collective "we" is reduced to a few principled (and not-so-principled) folks. It is no wonder that Benjamin Franklin, when asked what kind of government we were to have, replied, "A republic. If you can keep it."

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called the February 11, 2020, meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. at the Inn at Reading with 45 members present. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Linda Zeiber, Craig reminded everyone to be sure to check that you receive two confirmations after ordering your meals online. Following dinner, Craig conducted the business meeting beginning at 7:05 p.m.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$3396.00 as of February 12, 2020. There is currently \$199.00 available for preservation which includes \$150.00 set aside for a special project. The unencumbered balance as of February's meeting stands at \$3,197.00 Our membership stands at 64.

Preservation

During our February meeting, we raised a total of \$168 for Preservation. Special thanks to all of you who donated money or bought book and print raffle tickets. Just a friendly reminder there is still time to purchase raffle tickets for our print raffle. The print will be raffled off during our May Meeting.

During the February meeting, the membership approved donating \$400 to the American Battlefield Trust for their \$40-\$1 Matching Grant involving 4 Battlefields in VA. They are: Sailors Creek, Cedar Creek, Cedar Mountain, and Ware Bottom Church which was part of the Bermuda Hundred Campaign. This puts our total contribution for this donation to \$16,000. We will be updating our website with the updated totals including this donation.

Book Raffle

For the next two months, you will be able to purchase chances for four prizes in our Special Raffle.

Grand Prize---Keith Rocco's *"the 8th Illinois Cavalry at Brandy Station, June 9, 1863 (12" X 18")*

1st Prize---1886 Print of Gettysburg Battlefield Map (12" X 16")

2nd Prize---2 Volume Set of American Heritage *"Picture History of the Civil War"*

3rd Prize---Bruce Catton's 3 Volume Set *"The Centennial History of the Civil War"*

Tickets are the same price as our monthly book raffle and all funds go to battlefield preservation. The Special Drawing will take place at our April 14, 2020* meeting. THANKS TO EVERYONE for helping preserve our Civil War heritage!!!

*Note that our meeting will be held on the 155th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's assassination.

Programs

Dave Unger announced that he is the speaker for the March meeting entitled "From Soldiers to Governors". Also, a brief meeting was held immediately following the February meeting.

Dave also reported that there are currently four speakers lined up for next year's campaign. Any members who would consider doing a program should talk to Dave. This is money-saving for the round table and shares the vast knowledge and experiences of our members.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little welcomed all in attendance and urged all who plan to attend in March to have reservations made before noon on March 3, 2020. Two confirmations should be received 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.

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.

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 the following 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.

In 2019 the AAP program's 1,621 volunteers contributed 5,371.75 hours at Gettysburg. There are several sites at the park available to be adopted. Individuals or groups can adopt a site. Fall of 2019 our group met an individual from New Jersey who had adopted 22 sites, and he volunteers to pick up cigarette butts at the sites. The work can be as varied as raking leaves, painting fences, weed-whacking or picking up cigarette butts. All work is prearranged with the AAP coordinator. Contact Randall Hill, Adopt A Position Coordinator at 717-338-4474. Please contact Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995 if you are able to volunteer on May 28 or an alternate date.

23rd Campaign Programs

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
4-14-2020	Phillip Greenwalt	"From Kirby's Kingdom: Ramifications from the Trans-Mississippi in 1864"
5-12-2020	Tom Huntingdon	"In Search of George Gordon Meade"

March Program

"From Soldiers to Governors" presented by Dave Unger

Six of the first eight Pennsylvania governors after the Civil War were veterans of that conflict. They spanned four decades from the inauguration of John White Geary in 1867 to the final day in office of Samuel W. Pennypacker in January of 1907. Along the way they would include some memorable (and not so memorable) men including John Hartranft, Henry Hoyt, Robert Pattison (twice!), James Beaver, Daniel Hastings and William Stone. Even though they rose to great political heights they did not forget their combat memories or their military comrades. This is the story of those men from their battlefield experience to their political impact on Pennsylvania and the nation. It is based on the accounts in the book *Soldiers to Governors* by Richard C. Saylor and supplemented by additional research.



David Unger is a long-time member of the First Defenders. He taught American History at Blue Mountain High School for thirty-five years, and has spoken to the First Defenders twice before. Dave is presently the Program Chair for the organization.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, March 10, 2020 Meeting:

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for March include: Chicken Saltimbocca; Smoked Country-Style Sausage with onion gravy; Lemon-Broiled Tilapia with caper butter sauce; or Eggplant Parmigiana with fettuccini and marinara sauce. Soup, starch, vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea, and water are included. The price is \$32.00 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, TUESDAY March 3, 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 TUESDAY 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

April 2020



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

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 Quattrock 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.

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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

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First Defenders Civil War Round Table has adopted six sites:

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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"

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

May 2020



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

The may 12th round table program has been cancelled!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Days are filled with uncertainty. A threat previously not experienced faces the nation. Everyone is anxious that something needs to be done, but there is political (and personal!) disagreement on how to best find a way out of the dilemma. A wrong move can have dire consequences for the country, and may cost an untold amount of blood and treasure. Yet despite the consternation, outside the cold winter has yielded its icy grip as nature blossoms with new life and beauty oblivious to the human drama it surrounds.

As April gives way to May, we can rightly ask whether it is 2020 or 1861? Surely we are all living in new and uncertain times with an unseen enemy lurking among us, yet Americans have come this way before. It is a different kind of army marshaled today than it was 159 years ago when Abraham Lincoln stared across the Potomac River at a foe that had the power to dramatically change, and possibly destroy, the United States. Close study reveals that Lincoln focused on the twin goals of putting down the rebellion and restoring the nation, a focus that would remain razor-sharp for the next four years. We also know he suffered conflicting counsel, an unfriendly press and a large number of fellow-citizens who did support his policies or trust him to lead the country. And, we know Lincoln had his own personal doubts, too.

In the end, Lincoln would be able to claim victory. The price would be steep...more than three quarter million men would not be alive to share that victory, and the war would reach out and touch every heart and hearthstone in the nation. Many would carry life-long reminders of the conflict and many more would question whether the end justified the means, a debate that continues today.

-continued-

As a nation, we will prevail in our modern struggle just as we did a century-and-a-half ago. There will, of course, be congratulations and recriminations as the dust settles, and there will again be a steep cost in blood and treasure. In our own time, it will be an impossibility to say with certainty whether we travelled the best path to victory (although many will try). However, we must leave it to posterity to (endlessly) debate, and ultimately judge, the question. As it was in 1865, however, the victory today will be that the United States will still be here tomorrow for such questions to be discussed *ad nauseum* by wise people blessed with the benefit of hindsight. But, America will endure as a shining beacon for all while continuing to provide imperfect leadership in an imperfect world.

Craig

Round Table Business

Since the last meeting was held in March, there is no new business to report on. Refer to the April newsletter for various reports from committee heads. The world that we knew has changed. As a result, cancellations due to the Covid-19 pandemic are determining the future of the round table at this time.

With the cancellation of the May program, election of officers for the coming campaign must be postponed (Lincoln could hold a national election during a Civil War, but we are thwarted by a bug!). The officers and Board will continue to serve until we can again meet and reorganize.

We wish for everyone to stay safe and to stay tuned as this crisis continues and the ensuing consequences that it has for our group. Hopefully, we will meet together in September.

Book Raffle News

I am hoping that everyone is remaining healthy and safe as we patiently wait for the pandemic to pass. The Special Raffle of the Keith Rocco print and other prizes will not be concluded until our next campaign. The drawing will be held at our October meeting rather than our initial September meeting. This will allow members the opportunity to purchase tickets two more additional times.

We have also received several more items that we can offer in "Special Raffles". They will be offered in raffles beginning in January 2021. Here's hoping we can get together shortly and back to our fundraising efforts.

Joe's Jaunts

The next "Jaunt" scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2020, in Gettysburg has been cancelled. We optimistically have hope for a jaunt in the fall. Like everything else at this time, a holding pattern dictates future plans.

Adopt-A-Position

Our spring 2020 date to work on our sites scheduled for Thursday, May 28, has been cancelled due to the virus situation.

GNMP will work with us to reschedule. The AAP coordinator requests that we should have a make-up date in mind. Therefore, let Barbara Shafer know of your availability for one of the following four June dates: Thursday, June 18; Monday, June 20; Thursday, June 25; Monday, June 27. We meet at 8:30 am at Lowe's and carpool to Gettysburg or you can meet us in Gettysburg.

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.

Please contact Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995 if you are able to volunteer on one of the alternate June dates.

The 24th Campaign (and the Future of the Round Table)

When the Program Committee met back in January, there was hope and enthusiasm for the 24th Campaign. At this writing, nine programs have been confirmed and the calendar is full; however, a microscopic organism threatens both the Campaign and our future.

Already, several members have been heard to express concerns about ever going out in public again, and we are likely looking at a new paradigm for social gatherings in general. In March, the Round Table made a decision to relocate from the Inn at Reading to Giannotti's in Alsace Manor, but the "bug" has precluded the ability to confirm those arrangements since the facility has been closed and cannot be contacted. At the moment, we are a "Round Table without a home."

Over the next few months, there will be additional postings on our website to update everyone on our future. Too, there will be a variety of on-line "virtual" programs that some may find of interest. Many of these are courtesy of the Civil War Round Table Congress which has been actively recruiting presenters to fill in the voids many are experiencing. Check the site (at least) weekly for new content.

Please begin to consider whether you will be comfortable "re-enlisting" in the fall. What was once, perhaps, an academic question now takes on new meaning as we ALL face an indiscriminate and unseen enemy that has already struck down many. Face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfectants have become a norm that almost none of us would have foreseen when we last met less than two months ago. Our world has changed, and we can only hope our Round Table can weather the storm.

At the May program ending our annual campaigns, it has been tradition to tell everyone to "stay safe and healthy, and we'll see everyone in September." This year, these words take on a new meaning. Please do all you can to keep you and yours out of harm's way; we hope we can all be together again on September 8th!