

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2023, the 27th Campaign



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As a young Boy Scout I learned how to make my own rope. It was fascinating to see small threads of twine twisting and becoming entangled with other small threads, and together they would continue the process and become larger. These larger pieces would combine with other strands, and soon a strong piece of rope would be produced. If the process was repeated with several of these ropes, a heavier and thicker rope could be made. Something made up of tens of thousands of tiny threads would become strong enough to support enough weight to build an acceptable bridge. Of course, through carelessness or an intentional act, the rope could be broken.

The events of the past several months have suggested to me that life is very much like the rope I made so many years ago. A single individual becomes entangled with another and they with still others until soon there is a strong tie binding them together. America is like that. So, too, is a Round Table. Many different individuals bond together to create an enduring connection spanning the distance of years.

Yet, like my rope, a failure to take care of it or abusing it can result in the strong connection being severed. Even when knotted back together, the bond is never quite the same and its strength is diminished. There's a saying all crafters know, "Take care of your tools, and they will take care of you."

Our national bond seems to be fraying somewhat, in many cases because folks don't really know the history of our country. That's where we as a Round Table can play a part of help educate our friends on how our bonds developed and how we can keep them strong and secure. But, we are fewer than we once were, and we must attend to our own bonds by reaffirming our commitment to the First Defenders for its 27th Campaign. And, we need to rally others to help strengthen and maintain our "rope."

The time is now. A new campaign is upon us. We need YOU to re-enlist. Don't wait. Keep the rope strong by sending your membership today!

Craig

Round Table Business

The final meeting of last season was called to order on May 9, 2023. Thirty-seven members and guests attended. VP Mark Quattrochio announced that he was stepping down as vice president as well as giving up his preservation role. President Craig Breneiser thanked Mark for his excellent work for the past several years. Gary Hertzog announced that he would take on our preservation initiative in addition to handling the monthly book raffle.

Joe Schaeffer had no jaunt information yet but announced a list of notable speakers for the 27th campaign. See the listing at the end of the newsletter for some of the programs. We were informed that Joe will step into the vice president's position. As former president for many years, he is a welcome addition to the board in this capacity.

Treasurer Tim Antosy reported a balance in the treasury of \$1,570.06 as of May 9, 2023. There was \$192.00 available for preservation. He added that membership at the end of the 26th campaign stood at 54. The unencumbered balance in the treasury stood at \$1,378.06.

The annual election of officers was held. Most positions were retained with the exception of Joe Schaeffer becoming vice president while still planning our "jaunts" and working diligently on programs. Gary Hertzog is taking on preservation responsibilities while continuing to man the book raffle job. We thank Joe and Gary for adding to their responsibilities for the upcoming campaign as well as the rest of the officers who have agreed to stay in their current positions.

Membership

It's time to renew your membership for the new campaign of 2023-2024. Please fill out the membership form included with this newsletter and which can also be found on the website, and return it with your check as soon as possible. The deadline for payment is October 10, 2023. If you plan to pay your dues in person at the September or October meeting, please be sure to fill out **the renewal form** and **bring it along** with your payment.

Book Raffle News

September is rapidly approaching and with that comes the start of our 27th Campaign of the First Defenders CWRT. Our 26th Campaign closed with our monthly book raffle and a special raffle. Items that were raffled off were 1st prize-CSA Our Heroes & Our Flags Print, 2nd prize-NY Times Civil War Extras, 3rd prize- a coffee table book (The Civil War 1861 to 1865) by David Roth, 4th prize- a framed & matted picture of a PA volunteer (41st Inf Co G), and 5th Prize-a collection of CW metal cast cannon. The winners were:

1st Prize---Ev Binn

2nd Prize---Lisa Breneiser

3rd Prize---Lisa Breneiser

4th Prize---Tim Antosy

5th Prize---Ev Binn

Congratulations & thanks to all the winners! Thank you to everyone for your support of our CW preservation efforts. Hope to see everyone at our September meeting.

Ghost at Sachs Bridge?

Many of us recall a presentation several years ago from renowned Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide Tim Smith which he closed with an emphatic pronouncement: "There are NO GHOSTS IN GETTYSBURG!" And, while Sachs Bridge is not technically "in Gettysburg," a recent photograph circulated on Facebook suggests ghosts may have taken up residence along the Cumberland Township - Freedom Township border where historic Sachs Bridge crosses Marsh Creek.

Built in 1854, the 100-foot long covered bridge was behind Confederate lines on Seminary Ridge and near where a number of field hospitals were known to exist. Water from Marsh Creek would have supported the Army of the Potomac on its way to the battle, and would have been used by the Army of Northern Virginia from the afternoon of July 1st until it retreated three days later. Surely, Marsh Creek supplied the needs of the hospitals, and it is altogether likely more than a few soldiers, wounded or healthy, found their way to the creek to quench their thirst. And, some spirits may have departed this world at Sachs Bridge.

What say you???



Technology Geek(s) Needed!

The Civil War Round Table Congress just concluded its annual conference in Gettysburg. This is an "operational" gathering of Round Tables intended to learn about ways to sustain their organizations and share stories of what works and what does not. Virtual meetings were a major discussion topic.

In the wake of the pandemic, the First Defenders were not alone in trying to maintain our existence through GoToMeeting and Zoom. Nor were we the only Round Tables to experience the "growing pains" of adapting to modern technology (and some of the "horror stories" were truly amusing!)

The Round Tables that opted to provide virtual programs have generally chosen to continue making the option available to their members. Like us, they have noted some of their members have difficulty travelling or are still hesitant to attend public meetings due to continuing COVID outbreaks and their own health. They also report they have been able to bolster and reach more members in more distant areas, and some have opted to make their programs publicly available.



As our 27th Campaign is about to begin, there are new rumblings about possible mask and meeting mandates as a new strain of COVID appears to be on the rise. For this reason, we will continue to offer Zoom programming for the coming year. But, that comes with a request...

For those who have attended our meetings in person, you know that I have been both the presiding officer and the chief technology geek. While I have sometimes managed to do both jobs at once, our ability to reach those members who anticipate a virtual program depends on me being healthy enough to attend the meeting. It would be great if a couple of volunteers step forward to help out. All you need is you; the equipment is available and I would be happy to provide the necessary training (if I can figure it out, so can you!).

If interested, reply by email or see me at the September meeting. Thanks!

Craig

Charley: The True Story of the Youngest Soldier to Die in the American Civil War **by Brendan Lyons**

The story begins in West Chester, PA, on Charley's 12th birthday, shortly before the start of the Civil War. States have begun seceding from the Union and the children of West Chester know that war is coming. Charley, a young drummer, leads them in marching around town as he prepares to go to war himself, against his parent's wishes. They are persuaded by Captain Benjamin Sweeny to allow Charley to join Company F as the drummer boy. Sweeny promises to watch over Charley and do all he can to protect the boy.

From there, he marches to Washington, DC, Virginia, and into several battles alongside his fellow soldiers. Charley experiences grueling marches, bloody battles, loss, sickness, fear, and ultimately his own death.

Available from Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1955041067>

Alas, Confederates



Greytown, Nicaragua. 1899. An old Rebel general pens his Civil War memoirs. Using a local girl as his stenographer, the recollections come easily, until the writing session when he tries to remember the third day at Gettysburg.

This is the final play from the Trilogy of the Confederacy, written by Virginia playwright

James F. Bruns. First came, Confederates (2016) reviewed by DC METRO ARTS writing, "If you are a Civil War buff and a theater lover, this is the show for you" and then, the controversial Black Confederates (2018) called "compelling" by DCist magazine. Both of these plays premiered at the Washington D.C. Capital Fringe Festival.

<https://phillyfringe.org/events/alas-confederates/>

Details

Run Time: 80 mins

Ticket Price: \$20

Venue: [Arden Theatre](#)



Dates: September 9, 2023 -
September 24, 2023

Treasurer Change

Treasurer Tim Antosy has reluctantly stepped down from office due to medical concerns. While Tim still plans to be with us during the coming campaign, we thank former Treasurer Lori Border for agreeing to return to the office for the coming campaign.

As Lori assumes her new duties, Ev Binns has graciously agreed to lead the Membership Committee through the 27th Campaign.

September Program:

"Moments of Contingency & the Rise of Grant"

presented by Chris Mackowski



"The condition of being dependent on chance; uncertainty." Perhaps the least common definition of "contingency," it nonetheless certainly describes the rise of Ulysses S. Grant from an undistinguished pre-Civil War West Pointer to the highest rank in the United States Army in three years (and the presidency of the nation in less than five more). From Belmont to Appomattox (and then to the White House) there was nothing certain about Grant's future. Some may consider him to have been lucky while others would say blessed, but there were more than a few moments of contingency between 1861 and 1865 that could have resulted in an entirely different outcome of the War and the future of the nation, and this program will explore some of those key instances of uncertainty where chance showed its hand.

Chris Mackowski has been a frequent and popular presenter for the First Defenders. A self-described "fanboy" of Stonewall Jackson, Chris' work on Grant probably makes him a fanboy of him, too. The editor-in-chief and co-founder of *Emerging Civil War*, Chris is a writing professor and associate dean for undergraduate programs at St. Bonaventure University in New York. A prolific author with more than two dozen titles to his credit, Chris is also the historian-in-residence at Stevenson's Ridge, a historic property on the Spotsylvania Battlefield. Formerly a National Park Service historian, Chris still leads tours of the Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania battlefields as well as the site where Stonewall Jackson died. In his spare (!) time, he is also the vice president of the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust and serves on the advisory board of the Civil War Round Table Congress.



Future 27th Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
10/12/2023	Tim Talbott	<i>USCT Soldiers Proved Their Heroism at New Market Heights</i>
11/14/2023	Harold Holtzer	<i>Lincoln & the Press</i>
12/12/2023	Group Participation	<i>Civil War Jeopardy</i>
1/9/2024	Craig Breneiser	<i>General John Hartranft, the 1899 Exeter Train Wreck & Beyond</i>
2/13/2024	Wally Heimbach	<i>Colonel Edward Cross</i>
3/13/2024	Greg Mertz	<i>Intelligence Gathering Issues for Lee and Meade in the Gettysburg Campaign</i>
4/9/2024	Brad Gottfried	<i>Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Antietam & Gettysburg Campaigns</i>
5/14/2024	-To Be Announced-	

Dinner Reservations for Tuesday September 12, 2023,
Meeting & Program:

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

Broiled Orange Roughy Pork Chop Cheese Ravioli

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon, Friday, Sept. 8, 2023, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$31.00 inclusive for meals.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the FRIDAY preceding the meeting. This is the policy of Giannotti's, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the 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.**



Our 27th Campaign!

FIRST DEFENDERS CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE MEMBERSHIP FORM 2023-2024

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 10, 2023.

Please make the check payable to The First Defenders CWRT and mail with a completed membership form to:

**Lori Border
30 East 40th Street
Reading, PA 19606**

(Or pay in person at the September or October dinner meeting!)

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

October 2023



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patience. If there is one thing I have inherited from my father it is his legendary patience. I never witnessed him getting flustered by delays even in his days as a firefighter or emergency medical technician. Wait in line? No problem. Somewhere along the way, my youthful restlessness has given way to Dad's patience.

For the past eighteen months, Lisa and I have been embroiled in building projects. First an addition onto our home, and now a garage. What should have begun a very long time ago has stretched into what seems an eternity. Sure, we could have raised a ruckus, looked for alternative professionals or plain out fired people, but it is doubtful our projects would have been completed any sooner.

When my patience is tasked, though, I am reminded of a conversation President Lincoln had with Senator Ben Wade who insisted that George McClellan be replaced. "With whom?" asked Lincoln. "Why, anybody!" was Wade's reply. In sage fashion, the President said, "Wade, anybody will do for you, but not for me. I must have somebody." Like Old Abe, Lisa and I must have somebody to complete our work.

It would take another two years for Lincoln to find that somebody in Ulysses S. Grant. Although the president had not always remained nonchalant in dealing with his recalcitrant generals, his patience finally paid off and brought him the answer to his problem of how to end the war and restore the union.

After a month of almost continual combat in the spring of 1864, Grant wired the War Department to announce he was crossing the James River. Upon reading the telegram, Lincoln responded, "I begin to see it. You will succeed." While it would still take another ten months, Lincoln's patience was paying off.

Patience is not easy, and we all have our moments of anxiety when things do not move as quickly as we would like. In the end, we need to trust that all will turn out for the best. Although it may take almost as long to finish our modern-day campaign, thanks to my inherited patience I, too, can begin to see it. (Thanks Dad!)

Craig

Round Table Business

The first meeting of our 27th season was called to order on September 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Forty-six members and guests attended. Jeff Newman offered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. We were happy to welcome the following five new members: Faith Binns, Lisa Newman, Steve Wilson, Ronald Jameson, and Tom Kulp.

Membership

It's time to renew your membership for the 27th campaign of 2023-2024. 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 10, 2023. 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 even if you have been a member for many years.

October Book Raffle News

Our 27th Campaign is underway, and we're off to a great start! At our inaugural meeting, we collected \$107 dollars which was donated to the American Battlefield Trust. Our donation will go to battlefields in Kentucky and Tennessee (Battlefields of Belmont, Franklin, Nashville & Richmond) and is part of a matching grant. Thanks to all of you (members & guests) who continue to support our raffle and battlefield preservation efforts.

If any of our members have books that they wish to donate, Gary will be accepting those donations for the next couple of meetings. So, bring a box, bag, or just couple of books that will help clean off your book shelves. Thank you for your contributions.

A reminder: Gary will be bringing a number of books (20 to 30) to our October meeting to clear out some of our inventory. These books will be offered to members and guests. They will be available for a donation---whatever you wish to give; it's up to you. So, perhaps you wish to bring a couple extra dollars in case you find a selection for your CW library. Of course, any funds collected will go to battlefield preservation.

A special raffle is in the works, and hopefully will be ready for our November meeting.

Preservation

Welcome back everyone to Season 27, and we are off to a great start having raised **\$107** for Preservation from our Book Raffle. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for the raffle or donated money. It is greatly appreciated.

The American Battlefield Trust currently is offering six Matching Grants:

- A **\$117-\$1** Matching Grant for the battlefields at Franklin, TN, Nashville, TN and Belmont, KY.
- A **\$30-\$1** Matching Grant for the battlefields in VA at: Mine Run, Boydton Plank Road, Reams Station, the area of the Breakthrough on the Petersburg Battlefield, and Dinwiddie Court House
- A **\$29.70-\$1** Matching Grant for Gettysburg-South Cavalry Field where, Wesley Merritt's Cavalry Brigade fought, and Second Deep Bottom
- An **\$18-\$1** Matching Grant for Chickamauga, Wyse Fork, NC, Bentonville, NC and Shiloh, TN
- A **6.50-\$1** Matching Grant for Chickasaw Bayou and Champion Hill, MS
- A **\$4-\$1** Matching Grant for New Market and Spotsylvania Court House in VA

During our September Meeting the membership approved a donation of **\$130** to the **American Battlefield Trust** and it will be in the name of **Chris Mackowski**. This donation will go towards the **\$117-\$1** Matching Grant and with this donation our Total Contribution with the Matching Grant is **\$15,210**. Thanks everyone!!

In other Preservation news Mark reported:

- The proposed Super Wal Mart that was going to be built in Gettysburg near the area of Benner Hill **has been cancelled and shelved**. This is great news! The plan was to close the current Wal Mart on Route 30 (**York Road**) and to build a new Super Wal Mart.
- The Gettysburg Foundation and the National Park Service have decided on what the next project is after the rehabilitation of Little Round Top is completed. The next project will involve rehabbing the **National Cemetery** and, will include rehabbing both Cemetery gates. The price tag for the project is approximately **4 million dollars** and the Foundation has agreed to fund the entire project.

Treasurer

Our new treasurer Lori Border reported a balance in the treasury as of August 28, 2023, of \$1062.79. The preservation fund had \$168.00. More details will be in next month's report as membership fees are added. President Craig Breneiser reminded everyone that your membership pays for speakers each month, and this season promises excellent programs.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone that meal reservations are always due on noon the Friday before the meeting. Most members make reservations online; but, for those who call them in, keep in mind that Kathy will be on vacation during the deadline period of time for October's meeting. Leave a message on her voice mail or, if possible, call early with your meal selections.

Newsletter

Articles for inclusion in the monthly newsletter are always due on the Tuesday following the monthly meeting. Contact Linda Zeiber at 610.678.1168 or zeibers@comcast.net with questions or concerns.

If you have an interesting story or informative article, please submit it for consideration. Thank you for your continued support, especially to President Craig for his endless patience and assistance with navigating the wonderful world of technology.



Civil War Round Table Congress

As many already know, Civil War Round Tables are local groups with a common interest in the Civil War era. There is no national or state leadership, chapters or affiliations. Just local folks who get together, often in a haphazard manner, to enjoy a mutual interest. Since the first Round Table organized in Chicago even before the start of World War II, hundreds of Round Tables have appeared (and, sadly, many have also disappeared) to advance the understanding of what is, arguably, the most important time in American history.

The interest in our collective past is not what it once was, and even the most devoted educators have difficulty keeping up with the continuing evolution of U.S. history. With many other pastimes now available to a more mobile and connected populace, Round Tables have struggled to exist, much less remain relevant.

A few years back, several individuals put their heads together and formed what would become the **Civil War Round Table Congress** with its sole mission to inspire Round Table leaders to adapt, adopt and maintain strategies for sustainability. The CWRT Congress began holding annual conferences, and at its most recent in August 2023 in Gettysburg, more than three dozen Round Tables came together to share their stories. The key takeaways from the conference included:

- **Every CWRT is facing similar issues.**
- **Sister CWRTs are a great way to share the load.**
- **Community partnerships can be a win-win.**
- **When choosing a meeting venue, think long-term.**
- **Costly dinner meetings can be a hindrance to younger members.**
- **"You can't fail if you do nothing."**
- **Leaders need to be flexible.**
- **Build a winning team rather than rely on one person.**
- **Projects that "give back" are attractive to potential new members.**
- **Ask your members periodically about their desires and needs.**

We will be talking more about our Round Table future in the coming months including the possibility of embarking on the **CWRT Congress Sustainability Challenge**. For more about the Challenge and what it entails, go to <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/challenge.html> or check out the program details on our website under the "Special Dispatches" tab of the Newsletters section.

More to follow in coming months!

October Program:

We Fight for Our Rights, Liberty, Justice and Union: the Battle of New Market Heights, September 29, 1864 **presented by Tim Talbott**

Early on the morning of September 29, 1864, the Third Division of the XVIII Corps (Army of the James) stepped off to do battle and stepped into history. In what is arguably the most significant moment in African American military history, this United States Colored Troops division attacked and drove the famous Texan Brigade from their entrenched position and in doing so performed heroic actions that resulted in 14 Black soldiers and two White officers receiving Medals of Honor.



Often confused with the Battle of New Market which happened four months earlier in the Shenandoah Valley, and overlooked due a pervasive unwillingness to give proper credit to Black soldiers in the years following the war, the Battle of New Market Heights offers valuable lessons and a thrilling story of perseverance over prejudice.

Tim Talbott is presently the Chief Administrative Officer for the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He was formerly the Director of Education, Interpretation, Visitor Services, and Collections, at Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, Virginia. Before returning to Pamplin Park, Tim also worked with student and educator audiences while with the Kentucky Historical Society for six years. Talbott is the founding member and President of the Battle of New Market Heights Memorial and Education Association. He earned bachelor's degrees from Milligan College (Communications) and East Tennessee State University (History), and an M.A. in Public History from Appalachian State University. Tim is a contributor and the book review editor for the Emerging Civil War blog, and has published articles in both book and scholarly journal formats. His current project is researching soldiers captured during the Petersburg Campaign.



Future 27th Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
11/14/2023	Harold Holtzer	<i>Lincoln & the Press</i>
12/12/2023	Group Participation	<i>Civil War Jeopardy</i>
1/9/2024	Craig Breneiser	<i>General John Hartranft, the 1899 Exeter Train Wreck & Beyond</i>
2/13/2024	Wally Heimbach	<i>Colonel Edward Cross at the Wheatfield</i>
3/13/2024	Greg Mertz	<i>Intelligence Gathering Issues for Lee and Meade in the Gettysburg Campaign</i>
4/9/2024	Brad Gottfried	<i>Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Antietam & Gettysburg Campaigns</i>
5/14/2024	Kevin Pawlak	<i>-To Be Announced-</i>

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday October 10, 2023
Meeting & Program:

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

Salad
Breaded Haddock
Marinated Chicken Breast
Pasta with Grilled Veggies

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon, Friday, October 6, 2023, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$31.00 inclusive for meals.

***IMPORTANT NOTE* Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the FRIDAY preceding the meeting. This is the policy of Giannotti's, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We recently sold my parent's house...my boyhood home...and I wondered what would become of the old place once new owners moved in. Surely some of the decor would change, and there were some areas overdue for refurbishing or modernization. The wallpaper would likely go, and (I'm told) paneling is no longer in style. Possibly the neutral paint colors will give way to something more vibrant, and the oak hardwood floors might disappear under wall-to-wall carpeting. This is, they say, the Circle of Life. Sad for me, perhaps, but a new space for a new family to make their memories.

Towns and cities are like that, too, I suppose. Reading's Penn Street in the post World War II era with its vibrant storefronts and movie theatres, has given way to less glitzy office space, a hotel and a civic center. It doesn't look much like it did back in the sixties as new generations have changed downtown's appearance. (Alas, a railroad still bisects the city, but it's no longer the one you find on the Monopoly Board.)

The people of Charlottesville, Virginia, have opted to change their furnishings, too. Gone now is the statue of Robert E. Lee, a central work of art for nearly 100 years, secretly melted down just last week into bronze ingots that will someday become a new work of art appealing to a new generation. Marse Robert likely would have frowned at ever being cast in bronze in the first place, and almost certainly would have shunned being the center of attention in modern-day culture wars. Perhaps he would be happy to quietly leave the stage and, as another general once said, just fade away.

There may come a day when the Centre Park equestrian of David Gregg will follow the Charlottesville Lee, or the City Park First Defender will be reduced to rubble. New owners will want to decorate their surroundings according to their tastes, not those of their forebears. To those of us who have grown up in these familiar surroundings and have embraced the stories and history these monuments were intended to illustrate, it's a sad, head-shaking reality that life continues to pass before us ever changing.

Perhaps, though, while we still walk this Earth, we may yet have the opportunity to convince those who follow that, while they *should* decorate to their tastes, there may yet be a place for legacies of previous generations to add to the tapestry of their surroundings.

Craig

Round Table Business

The October meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table was called to order on October 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. by President Craig Breneiser. Thirty-eight members attended. Vice President Joe Schaeffer's absence was due to Covid 19 which had postponed pending knee replacement surgery. All of those in attendance wished Joe a successful surgery and a speedy return to the Round Table and the golf links.

A few minutes before the speaker for the evening, Tim Talbott, was to begin the program, Giannotti's experienced a power blackout. It seemed a bit early for a Halloween fright, but we endured the darkness for a short time and eventually the power was restored.

Membership

The time to renew your membership for the 27th campaign of 2023-2024 has passed. However, if you have not already done so, it is never too late. Just fill out the membership form found on the website and return it with your check as soon as possible. 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 even if you have been a member for many years.

Current membership stands at 51.

November Book Raffle News

Thanks to everyone for your support of battlefield preservation. Last month, we tried something different and that was the "Book Bonanza". We offered a selection of books that were available for a donation. Any donation was accepted. It seemed to work out well since we were able to thin out old inventory, and members picked out some book selections that appealed to them. It was a win\win situation for battlefield preservation and for our members. We added approximately \$40.00 to our preservation efforts in addition to the regular raffle proceeds. We will repeat the "Bonanza" in the near future.

Gary Hertzog will accept a few more books at the next meeting. Wally Heimbach brought 4 boxes to the October meeting. A few other members also brought several selections from their personal libraries. Thanks to Wally and everyone else for your donations. They are greatly appreciated.

At the November meeting, we should be able to start a "Special Raffle". This raffle will include the "Cyclorama piece", which was donated to us by Sue Boardman. There will also be 3-4 other prizes available. There will be more information at the November meeting.

Preservation

October was a fantastic meeting with Tim Talbot giving a great presentation on the Battle of New Market Heights. Thanks to all of you who came to the meeting, we raised another **\$153** for Preservation. This includes money from our book raffle, donations that were made, and we had extra books from our inventory put out on a table for people to pick up and donate whatever amount you cared to give.

In Preservation News, the American Battlefield Trust has come out with a new Preservation project involving Gettysburg. They are looking to purchase 15 acres of land where the Gettysburg Country Club was located. The plan originally was for a developer to come in and to tear down the buildings from the Country Club and to construct a brand new 3 story Apartment complex. This project fell through and ABT is moving

quickly to try and preserve this area of the battlefield. The acres they are looking to preserve are part of the 1st day's battle and is in the area where Confederate General Henry Heth and part of his division fought. In addition, ABT is offering a **\$2-\$1 Matching Grant** for this project.

Finally, here an update on our Preservation Totals for this Season:

- Total money raised: **\$260**
- Total money donated: **\$130**
- Total Contributed with Matching Grants: **\$15,210**

Treasurer

Treasurer Lori Border reported a balance in the treasury as of October 10, 2023, beginning at \$1062.79 and ending at \$1810.76. The preservation fund currently has \$281.00. More details will be in next month's report as membership fees are added.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone that meal reservations are always due on noon the Friday before the meeting. Most members make reservations online; but, for those who call them in, keep in mind that Kathy must be called by the same deadline. All reservations are due by noon on November 10 for the November meeting.

Newsletter

Articles for inclusion in the monthly newsletter are always due on the Tuesday following the monthly meeting. Contact Linda Zeiber at 610.678.1168 or zeibers@comcast.net with questions or concerns.

If you have an interesting story or informative article, please submit it for consideration. Several seasons ago, we had published several personal ancestor stories of our members. We would like to pick up these once again in the newsletter. If you have a story to share, please forward it. Thank you for your continued support, especially to President Craig for his endless patience and assistance with navigating the wonderful world of technology.

Website

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser attended a Civil War conference recently and learned some tricks to increase Round Table membership. As a result, we now have a Facebook page linked to our website: **firstdefenderscwrt.us**. We also encourage current members to invite guests to attend one of our meetings and see the workings of our group.

Joe's Jaunts

While Joe Schaeffer is out of commission as the jaunt organizer, "**Craig's Cruises**" will take care of Round Table travel. On Saturday November 4, 2023, from 10:30 am-12:00 pm, the Bucks County Civil War Library & Museum will have a program at their museum and library. The emphasis is on the region of Bucks County and the town's own famous 104th PA Volunteer "Ringgold" Regiment.

Included in the exhibits are works of art, maps, photographs, flags, and sculptures on permanent loan from the Bucks County Civil War Round Table and regional collections.

Contact Craig Breneiser about carpooling information and travel to this event.

November's Program

"Lincoln & the Press"

presented by Harold Holzer

In a nation where "freedom of the press" is enshrined in the Constitution, it is only natural that presidents will face hostile, supportive and middle-of-the-road journalists. While recent years have brought the Fourth Estate to its lowest ebb in many years (depending on which side of the political spectrum you consult), the 19th century press was unabashedly political and proud of it. Abraham Lincoln would face self-described Democratic or Republican newspapers which often make no secret of reporting what today is known as "fake news."

Early in his career, Lincoln actually had ownership of a newspaper, and he spent his entire political career seeking to control the news to his benefit. This did not change when he moved into the White House, and he would spend four years perusing newspapers, providing stories, currying favor with some editors and trying to minimize damage caused by others in his quest to keep the nation united while winning a Civil War. Close analysis suggests Lincoln mastered the press in such a way that his message ensured the people would stand behind his war policy.



Harold Holzer is one of the leading authorities on Abraham Lincoln, having served as the co-chair of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, the chair of the Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation and current chair of the Lincoln Forum. President George W. Bush awarded him the National Humanities Medal in 2008, and an essay he wrote was included in the official re-inauguration program of President Barack Obama. Author of dozens of articles and books, Holzer explored Lincoln's relationship with the press with his 2014 work "Lincoln and the Power of the Press: the War for Public Opinion." More recently, he has expanded his analysis with "The President vs. the Press: the Endless Battle Between the White House and the Media - From the Founding Fathers to Fake News."



Future 27th Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
12/12/2023	Group Participation	<i>Civil War Jeopardy</i>
1/9/2024	Craig Breneiser	<i>General John Hartranft, the 1899 Exeter Train Wreck & Beyond</i>
2/13/2024	Wally Heimbach	<i>Colonel Edward Cross at the Wheatfield</i>
3/13/2024	Greg Mertz	<i>Intelligence Gathering Issues for Lee and Meade in the Gettysburg Campaign</i>
4/9/2024	Brad Gottfried	<i>Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Antietam & Gettysburg Campaigns</i>
5/14/2024	Kevin Pawlak	<i>-To Be Announced-</i>

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday November 14, 2023
Meeting & Program:

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

Salad
Steamed Shrimp
Grilled Chicken Breast
Eggplant Parmesan

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon, Friday, November 10, 2023, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$31.00 inclusive for meals.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the FRIDAY preceding the meeting. This is the policy of Giannotti's, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the 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

December 2023



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Five words. Only five words can hold a potent meaning. Consider some of the memorable invocations from the past...

"I come to bury Caesar..."

"All men are created equal..."

"Fourscore and seven years ago..."

"Yesterday, December Seventh, Nineteen Forty-One..."

"I have a dream today..."

Throughout history, words have been fused together to portend something dramatic, often life-changing. A mere five words of the English language placed in a particular order can stimulate deep thought, change the trajectory of a nation or alter the course of an individual. Sometimes, they are personal...

"You have a malignant tumor..."

Those five words we experienced quite unexpectedly last May.

Having just recalled Lincoln's "few appropriate remarks" at Gettysburg, I realize that I have unconsciously begun to rededicate myself to the notion of leaving the world (eventually!), or my place in it, better than when I arrived. I have no illusions that what I have said or done (or will yet say or do) will go down in world history, nor do I need to worry myself that some future generation will "cancel" me by melting down a statue (!) that will never be created in the first place. But, I plan to do my part to do good works.

As we enter this season of thanksgiving and renewal, let us seek out the "better angels of our nature" as we continue on life's journey. Peace, love, blessings and happiness (five words!) to you all this holiday season!

Craig & Lisa

Round Table Business

The November meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table was called to order on November 14, 2023, at 6:23 p.m. by President Craig Breneiser. Ev Binns offered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Forty-seven members and guests attended. Vice President Joe Schaeffer was welcomed back following knee replacement surgery. Several members introduced their guests some of whom joined the Round Table. Our number keeps growing at this point. Bringing a guest is the best way for a potential member to see our fine organization in action.

President Breneiser gave a brief description of a "Craig's Cruise" taken by three members to the Bucks County Civil War Museum and Library in Doylestown earlier in November. He discussed a huge lithograph of the stockade at Andersonville as well as a good library. Those who visited came away with a positive impression of the facility which is open Saturdays from 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m.

Joe Schaeffer reported that all programs for the 2024-2025 campaign have been booked. He also thanked everyone for their inquiries and get well wishes throughout his ordeal.

Membership

The time to renew your membership for the 27th campaign of 2023-2024 has passed. However, if you have not already done so, it is never too late. Just fill out the membership form found on the website and return it with your check as soon as possible. If you plan to pay your dues in person at the December meeting, please be sure to fill out **the renewal form** and **bring it along** with your payment even if you have been a member for many years.

Current membership stands at 56.

December Book Raffle News

Gary Hertzog reported we started a new, special raffle. The raffle consists of four prizes, two grand prizes and two feature prizes. The grand prizes are a Gettysburg Cyclorama Shadowbox and Gettysburg Battlefield map. The feature prizes are a Pen & Key Chain set crafted by one of our members and a 4-volume 1934-35 set, "R. E. Lee," a biography by Douglass S. Freeman.

Feature prize tickets will be drawn first and, if your ticket is the first ticket selected, you will have your choice of the feature prizes. Following the drawing of the two feature prizes, tickets will be drawn for the two grand prizes. If your ticket is the first drawn in that category, you will have your choice of the grand prizes. The raffle will be running until our April 9, 2024, meeting. Ticket prices are the same as our monthly raffle.

Thanks to Kerry Williard, Michael H. LeWitt, Sue Boardman, and Linda & Gerry Zeiber for the prize donations.

In our November raffles, we took in \$142.00 for our preservation efforts. THANK YOU to everyone who continues to support our preservation efforts.

Preservation

What a great November meeting with Harold Holtzer as our guest speaker. During the meeting we were able to raise **\$142** from both our Book Raffle and our Special Raffle. As always, thank you to all who bought tickets for the book raffle, the special raffle or donated. It is greatly appreciated!

Mark Quattroco reported from the meeting the membership approved a donation of **\$200** to the American Battlefield Trust. The Trust is running a Matching Grant of **\$30-\$1** Matching Grant for: Mine Run, Reams Station, Boydton Plank Road, Dinwiddie Court House, and a portion of the field where the Breakthrough occurred on April 2nd during the Battle of Petersburg. With the Matching Grant, our Total Contribution is **\$6,000**.

Treasurer

Treasurer Lori Border reported a balance in the treasury as of November 14, 2023, beginning at \$1810.76 and ending at \$1933.33. The preservation fund currently has \$286.00. More details will be in next month's report as membership fees are added.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone that meal reservations are always due on noon the Friday before the meeting. Most members make reservations online; but, for those who call them in, keep in mind that Kathy must be called by the same deadline. All reservations are due by noon on December 8th for the December 12th meeting.

Newsletter

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If you have an interesting story or informative article, please submit it for consideration. Several seasons ago, we had published several personal ancestor stories of our members. We would like to pick up these once again in the newsletter. If you have a story to share, please forward it. Thank you for your continued support, especially to President Craig for his endless patience and assistance with navigating the wonderful world of technology.

Website

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser reminded everyone that we now have a Facebook page linked to our website: **firstdefenderscwrt.us**. We also encourage current members to invite guests to attend one of our meetings and see the workings of our group.

Future 27th Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
1/9/2024	Craig Breneiser	<i>General John Hartranft, the 1899 Exeter Train Wreck & Beyond</i>
2/13/2024	Wally Heimbach	<i>Colonel Edward Cross at the Wheatfield</i>
3/13/2024	Greg Mertz	<i>Intelligence Gathering Issues for Lee and Meade in the Gettysburg Campaign</i>
4/9/2024	Brad Gottfried	<i>Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Antietam & Gettysburg Campaigns</i>
5/14/2024	Kevin Pawlak	<i>-To Be Announced-</i>

Remembrance Day Weekend

The annual Remembrance Day Weekend was held in Gettysburg November 17-19, 2023. Town was bustling when we arrived there Friday the 17th at noon. For the first time in many years, the weather was warm, dry, and temperate. On Saturday, the parade of reenactors was comprised of Union and Confederate reenactors along with ladies from both sides in their Victorian garb. Many bands accompanied the marching units. While there were no cavalry units *per se*, there was no shortage of horses.

There is no denying the aging of the men and women who participate in this weekend each year. While some youthful members participated, many veterans struggled to walk the route. There also seemed to be a dearth of youngsters along the parade route which reminds us that our youth are not being exposed to such events in any discernible numbers.

The luminaries in the cemetery were inspiring as usual on Saturday night. Over 3000 luminaries adorned the graves of the Union Civil War dead. Each soldier's name was read aloud throughout the evening followed by taps. It's impossible not to be moved in the dark and quiet solemnity of the candles' glow.



Sadly, the ceremony in the National Cemetery scheduled for Sunday morning, November 19th, the actual anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, was moved to the Majestic Theater in the event of a government shutdown. The shutdown never happened, of course; but plans would not be changed. We have endured harsh cold and wind over the years for this ceremony, but this past year would have changed that with the unseasonably temperate weather. It was a letdown at the end of an otherwise perfect weekend. Unfortunately, "We" the people had no say in the event. I do not believe that Mr. Lincoln would have approved. How could the President dedicate a cemetery for the dead with no cemetery in view?

Linda & Gerry Zeiber

December's Program

Many members may recall when we took time out of our regularly scheduled programs to hold a "forum" and discuss Civil War topics. After the audience participation in Ev Binns' program during the last campaign, our December program will feature a return to the forum concept, but with a fun twist as we play...

"Civil War Jeopardy"

moderated by Ev Binns

Politicians	Battles	Capitals	Generals	Potpouri
100	100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300	300
400	400	400	400	400
500	500	500	500	500

Team participation in a First Defenders version of the fan-favorite "Jeopardy" will test your knowledge of Civil War people, places and things. A new and fun way to get into the holiday mood, and a chance to win a cool grand prize!

Dinner Reservations for the December 12, 2023 Meeting & Program

If possible, please make your meal choices/reservations on the website. Our meal choices for December are **Soup** with:

Broiled Crab Cake Veal Marsala Linguini w/mushroom sauce

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon, Friday, December 8, 2023, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$31.00 inclusive for meals.

***IMPORTANT NOTE* Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the FRIDAY preceding the meeting. This is the policy of Giannotti's, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the 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 2024



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Historian Richard Hofstadter once said it had all the moral grandeur of a bill of lading. Northerners rejoiced or labeled it the height of hypocrisy. Southerners were outraged, although some were sure it would rededicate their people to the "cause." Europeans felt it made the American Civil War "too pitchy to touch." While it actually did very little in 1863, its impact resonates to this day.

Eight score years ago on New Year's Day, President Abraham Lincoln placed his signature on what today we would call an executive order. The Emancipation Proclamation would make it clear a Union victory and the eventual end of the Civil War would be the end of slavery in the United States. One January 1st, 1863, the Proclamation did not free a single slave, but it sounded the death knell of the country's original sin.

Over the past sixteen decades, Americans have continued to struggle with race. We have come a long way, but the struggle continues with no real end in sight. Individual passions and prejudices continue to smolder while the news media and charlatans with loud microphones only serve to fan the flames. Each of us can look back over our lifetimes and see change that has occurred; we are less able to peer into the future to see just when and how the promise of the Emancipation Proclamation might fully bloom.

Lincoln noted that if he ever went down in history it would be "for this act." Looking down from his heavenly perch and the legacy of 160 years, he might well wonder whether he went too far... or didn't go far enough. Earthly hindsight suggests he started the ball rolling, but it is now for us to direct it on its continuing path to where, one day, there will be no question that "all men (and women) are created equal" and folks wonder how it could have ever been any different.

Pax in terra! Felix sit annus novus!

Craig

Round Table Business

The December meeting of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table was called to order on December 12, 2023, at 6:25 p.m. by President Craig Breneiser. Ev Binns offered a prayer that a Union soldier at Gettysburg prayed leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thirty-two attended.

Craig welcomed back Roger Cotterrill who had been unable to attend meetings for a long period of time. We all agreed that it was good to see our friend again.

President Breneiser recommended a book entitled *Twelve Days* by Tony Silver. In addition to being a good Civil War book, there is mention of the First Defenders in the writing.

Membership

The time to renew your membership for the 27th campaign of 2023-2024 has passed. However, if you have not already done so, it is never too late. Just fill out the membership form found on the website and return it with your check as soon as possible. If you plan to pay your dues in person at the January meeting, please be sure to fill out **the renewal form** and **bring it along** with your payment even if you have been a member for many years.

Current membership stands at 52.

Book Raffle News

In December the monthly raffle took in \$141 thanks again to the continued support of our membership. Part of the proceeds collected were from additional sales obtained from another bonus book and assorted items for sale which were also well received by our members.

Thank you to everyone for your support of all our preservation efforts. We also continued our Special Raffle which will run until our April meeting.

Preservation

Mark Quattrochio shared information about battlefield preservation initiative involving Glendale and Cold Harbor being sponsored by the American Battlefield Trust. He also described two ambulances obtained by the Museum of Civil War Medicine. The Pry House will display one of them.

Civil War Trails sent a letter asking for a \$200 annual sponsorship by our round table. This issue will need discussion before agreeing to it.

Mark will have a more comprehensive article in the February newsletter.

Treasurer

Treasurer Lori Border reported a balance in the treasury as of December 12, 2023, beginning at \$1983.33 and ending at \$1586.45 after expenses. The preservation fund currently has \$228.00 prior to the December meeting.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little reminded everyone that meal reservations are always due on noon the Friday before the meeting. Most members make reservations online; but, for those who call them in, keep in mind that Kathy must be called by the same deadline. All reservations are due by noon on January 5th for the January 9th meeting.

Newsletter

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If you have an interesting story or informative article, please submit it for consideration. Several seasons ago, we had published several personal ancestor stories of our members. We would like to pick up these once again in the newsletter. If you have a story to share, please forward it. Thank you for your continued support, especially to President Craig for his endless patience and assistance with navigating the wonderful world of technology.

Website

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser reminded everyone that we now have a Facebook page linked to our website: **firstdefenderscwrt.us**. We also encourage current members to invite guests to attend one of our meetings and see the workings of our group.

January's Program

"A Tie that Binds: General John Hartranft, the 1899 Exeter Train Wreck & Beyond"

presented by Craig Breneiser

John Frederick Hartranft would become a model citizen-soldier and leader in the crucible of the Civil War, rising from a regimental colonel who watched his three-months troops walk away from the Bull Run battlefield to being the man who turned back the last Confederate offensive at Fort Stedman. Offered a regular army commission post-war, he turned instead to Keystone State politics where he served honorable careers as auditor general and governor.



In 1899 following his death ten years earlier, an equestrian statue to his honor was dedicated in the plaza of the state capitol in Harrisburg. Attended by many of his former 51st Pennsylvania veterans who had faced combat, nearly two dozen of them would meet their fates on the way home from the celebration near tiny Exeter Station in Berks County in the most deadly train wreck recorded on the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad. That accident has modern-day connections, and this program will tell the story from beginning to end.

Craig Breneiser is in his ninth year as president of the First Defenders Civil War Round Table, and this will be his third presentation. Craig has studied and researched the Civil War for 60 years since his first trip to Gettysburg, has presented a number of programs to other groups and edited two period books. Formerly the Berks County 9-1-1 director, Craig continues to consult and provide project management for public-safety services. He resides with his wife, Lisa, in Lehigh County.



Future 27th Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
2/13/2024	Wally Heimbach	Colonel Edward Cross at the Wheatfield
3/13/2024	Greg Mertz	Intelligence Gathering Issues for Lee and Meade in the Gettysburg Campaign
4/9/2024	Brad Gottfried	Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Antietam & Gettysburg Campaigns
5/14/2024	Kevin Pawlak	-To Be Announced-

See Pages 5-6 for the December Civil War Jeopardy Q&A!

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday January 9, 2024
Meeting & Program:

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

Soup
Broiled Haddock
Lasagna
Manicotti

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon, Friday, January 5, 2024, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$31.00 inclusive for meals.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the FRIDAY preceding the meeting. This is the policy of Giannotti's, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the RT should you not attend after having made a reservation and not cancelled prior to the aforementioned time period.

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Civil War Jeopardy

Politicians	Battles	Capitals	Generals	Potpouri
100 The Wartime governor of the Keystone State. <hr/> Who was Andrew Curtin?	100 At the same time as the crisis was brewing at Fort Sumter in 1861, this Florida Fort was also under threat. <hr/> What was Fort Pickens?	100 The Volunteer State Capital would be the first to fall to Union troops in 1862. <hr/> What is Nashville?	100 "Old Fuss & Feathers" <hr/> Who was Winfield Scott?	100 This ship finally ended the depredations of the C.S.S. Alabama. <hr/> What was the U.S.S. Kearsarge?
200 He armed his troops with pikes that bore his name. <hr/> Who was Joseph Brown?	200 This battle marked the first victory in Ulysses S. Grant's rise to fame. <hr/> What was the Battle of Belmont?	200 The first capital of the Confederate States of America. <hr/> What is Montgomery?	200 "Old Pete" <hr/> Who was James Longstreet?	200 General Sherman reportedly said this respected nurse accompanying his army "ranked me". <hr/> Who was Mary Ann Bickerdyke?
300 This former governor of Virginia fled from Fort Donelson before its capture. <hr/> Who was John Floyd?	300 This November 1864 battle featured a Confederate assault larger than Pickett's charge at Gettysburg. <hr/> What was the Battle of Franklin?	300 In June of 1863, the Army of Northern Virginia would come within a few miles of this capital city. <hr/> What is Harrisburg?	300 "Old Blizzards" <hr/> Who was William Loring?	300 The black dressmaker became a close confidante of Mary Todd Lincoln. <hr/> Who was Elizabeth Keckley?
400 A pre-war Illinois politician turned-general who once challenged Abraham Lincoln to a duel. <hr/> Who was James Shields?	400 This South Carolina battle was opened with an assault by the 54th Massachusetts Infantry. <hr/> What is the Battle of Fort Wagner?	400 This southern capital would change hands several times during the Spring and Summer of 1863. <hr/> What is Jackson?	400 "Spoons" <hr/> Who was Benjamin Butler?	400 Union soldiers languished at this Richmond prison camp on an island in the James River. <hr/> What is Belle Island?
500 A pre-war senator from Florida, he would be responsible for making the Confederate Navy. <hr/> Who was Stephen Mallory?	500 Occurring on March 30, 1865, this was the last offensive assault by the Army of Northern Virginia. <hr/> What was the Battle of Fort Stedman?	500 Abraham Lincoln departed from this state capital for Washington, D.C. in February 1861. <hr/> What is Springfield?	500 "The Sledge of Nashville" <hr/> Who was George Thomas?	500 This pre-war fort off of the Florida Keys guarded access to the Gulf of Mexico and would become a home for political prisoners. <hr/> What is Fort Jefferson?

Civil War Double Jeopardy

<p>200 July 21, 1861</p> <p>What was the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas)?</p>	<p>200 General George G. Meade's favorite mount during the Civil War</p> <p>What was Baldy or Old Baldy?</p>	<p>200 The site of the first Ironclad sea battle</p> <p>What is Hampton Roads?</p>	<p>200 Author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights</p> <p>Who was George Mason?</p>	<p>200 The percentage of the population of the United States that died in the U.S. Civil War</p> <p>What is 2%?</p>
<p>400 December 13, 1862</p> <p>What is the Battle of Fredericksburg?</p>	<p>400 The number of horses shot from under General Nathan Bedford Forrest during the war</p> <p>What was Twenty-nine (29)?</p>	<p>400 The winner between the Merrimack and the Monitor</p> <p>What is a draw?</p>	<p>400 Most of these Americans supported neither the Union nor Confederacy</p> <p>Who are Native Americans?</p>	<p>400 It helped millions of former black slaves and poor whites in the South after the Civil War.</p> <p>What was the Freedmen's Bureau?</p>
<p>600 The first submarine sunk in combat on February 17, 1864</p> <p>What was the sinking of the H.L. Hunley?</p>	<p>600 General George B. McClellan's favorite horse</p> <p>What was Dan Webster?</p>	<p>600 The ironic location the location chosen for the funeral of Confederate General John Pegram</p> <p>What was the St Paul Church in Richmond VA where he was married only three weeks earlier?</p>	<p>600 The oldest officer to leave the prewar U.S. Army for Confederate service</p> <p>Who was General David E. Twiggs? (71 years old)</p>	<p>600 Two brothers who became Civil War generals on opposite sides, and both were killed in action</p> <p>Who was General William R. Terrill of Virginia, a Union Brigade commander, killed at the Battle of Perryville in 1862?</p> <p>Who was James B Terrill Confederate brigadier general who was killed at Bethesda Church in 1864?</p>
<p>800 November 25, 1863</p> <p>What was the Battle of Missionary Ridge?</p>	<p>800 Name three horses used by General U.S. Grant during the Civil War.</p> <p>What was Cincinnati, Kanagaroo, Fox, Jeff Davis, and Jack?</p>	<p>800 In this campaign the phrase "The cracker lines open! Full rations boys!" was heard</p> <p>What was Chattanooga?</p>	<p>800 The group that settled primarily in the Shenandoah Valley along the migration route</p> <p>Who are the German and Scot-Irish?</p>	<p>800 During the Battle of Pea Ridge the Confederate commander established his field headquarters in this vehicle</p> <p>What is an ambulance?</p>
<p>1000 On November 4, 1862, this patent was issued that was perfected too late for the Civil War</p> <p>What was patent # 36,836 for the Gatling Gun?</p>	<p>1000 General Albert Sidney Johnston was riding this horse when he was killed at Shiloh</p> <p>What was Fire-eater?</p>	<p>1000 Three out of four Union expeditions against Vicksburg which bogged down in the bayous of the Mississippi River from February to April 1863.</p> <p>What were Duckport Canal, Lake Providence, Yazoo Pass, and Steele's Bayou?</p>	<p>1000 This Confederate General was mortally wounded at Falling Waters, Virginia</p> <p>Who was General James J. Pettigrew?</p>	<p>1000 The highest-ranking Admiral in the Confederate Navy</p> <p>Who was Admiral Franklin Buchanan?</p>

The First Defenders Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2024



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way...

So said Charles Dickens in the opening paragraph of his 1859 classic "A Tale of Two Cities." A historical novel set with the background of the French Revolution at the dawn of the 19th Century, one can easily ask whether Dickens' thoughts were rooted in the distant past on the European continent or the increasingly turbulent present "across the pond" in America. With the "most important election in the history of the nation" only a year away, the former colonies in 1860 were told they faced a choice between justice and tyranny. Indeed, democracy would be on the ballot.

Here we are at the dawn of another presidential canvass, and, if we believe the chattering class, it seems Dickens' words have returned to haunt us as we are again facing the "most important election in the history of the nation." We are told democracy is, again, on the ballot. Yet, as students of history, we know democracy is *always* on the ballot as we, members of a free society, are afforded the right to choose our leaders and weigh in on the national direction. Alas, history is not for the "cool kids" or the modern elites today, and their screed grows louder. We can look, though, to words from Abraham Lincoln to calm the hysteria with a soothing balm of better perspective:

By the frame of the Government under which we live this same people have wisely given their public servants but little power for mischief, and have with equal wisdom provided for the return of that little to their own hands at very short intervals. While the people retain their virtue and vigilance no Administration by any

extreme of wickedness or folly can very seriously injure the Government in the short space of four years.

Unhappily, Lincoln's words were unable to calm troubled waters, and it is unlikely they will do so in our day when few will turn to and contemplate them. We know, though, regardless of the outcome on November 5th the republic will survive. We shall celebrate our semiquincentennial in grand style in 2026, and rejoice in how far we have come while reckoning on the road yet to be travelled. Then, once we recover from those jubinations and festivities we will be ready for 2028, just in time for the next "most important election in the history of the nation."

Craig

Round Table Business

The January meeting and program was cancelled due to the threat of adverse weather. Round Table business discussions will return in February!

February's Program

"Colonel Edward Cross & the 'Fighting 5th'"

presented by Wally Heimbach

Edward Cross did not aspire to be a soldier, but at the outset of the Civil War he would receive a commission as colonel of the Fifth New Hampshire volunteers which, under two years of his leadership, would see action on the Peninsula, at Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. The "Fighting 5th" was considered one of the best regiments in the Army of the Potomac, and Cross would be one of the best colonels who never what a general's star. Twice wounded, Cross was known to wear a red bandana on his head when going into battle so his men could recognize him. With a premonition of his own death, he would sport a black bandana on July 2, 1863 while on his way to the Wheatfield at Gettysburg where he would be mortally wounded early in the fight and die the next day in a field hospital. This program traces the recruitment and reputation of the 5th New Hampshire and the leadership of Edward Cross.



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. He has previously presented twice to the First Defenders on Generals Winfield Scott Hancock and Philip Kearny.

Future 27th Campaign Programs

Date	Speaker	Program
3/13/2024	Greg Mertz	"Jackson Is With You!" - The Battle of Cedar Mountain
4/9/2024	Brad Gottfried	Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Antietam & Gettysburg Campaigns
5/14/2024	Kevin Pawlak	Fire on the Mountains: The Battles of South Mountain and Harpers Ferry, September 12-15, 1862

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday February 13, 2024
Meeting & Program:

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

Soup
Broiled Crab Imperial
½ Black Diamond Steak
Cheese Tortelli

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon, Friday, February 9, 2024, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$31.00 inclusive for meals.

IMPORTANT NOTE Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the FRIDAY preceding the meeting. This is the policy of Giannotti's, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the 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

March 2024



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“All quiet along the Potomac.” So read many of George McClellan’s daily reports during the fall and winter of 1861-62. Many in the North clamored for “something” to be done, yet Little Mac’s troops idled their time away just waiting.

“All quiet on the First Defenders front” seems to be our lot, as well, as we while away our time watching the snow come and go. We can hardly remember the last time we were together in fellowship, and our winter hiatus is now almost as long as our regular summer break. We anxiously hope to get back on the campaign trail in March!

Although Punxsutawney Phil may not have called the coming of spring quite right (again!), the promise of warmer weather does signal the opportunity to get back outdoors and begin enjoying battlefield tramping, and a couple of interesting opportunities are noted elsewhere in the newsletter. Too, we still have three remaining programs in the 27th Campaign featuring a trio of renowned historians and authors. So, the “quiet” is soon to be broken!

With the coming of spring we also begin planning for our 28th Campaign. Some of our programs are already booked, and, of course, it will soon be time to choose our leaders for the coming year. While you still have some time before turning to the outdoors, consider serving as an officer or committee chair for 2024-25. New leadership means new ideas and opportunities to keep the First Defenders Civil War Round Table an interesting way to learn about Civil War history while spending time with old friends and making new acquaintances around a modern-day bivouac fire.

Now, everyone get out you Ouija Board to help the weatherman ensure our March meeting and program will enjoy fair weather!

Craig

Round Table Business

The February meeting and program was cancelled due to the threat of adverse weather. Round Table business discussions will (hopefully!) return in March!

March Program

“Jackson is With You! – The Battle of Cedar Mountain”

presented by Greg Mertz

The success of Confederate General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley during the spring of 1862 was due in part to the Federal forces he confronted belonging to three separate departments that did not cooperate with one another. That would change in the summer of 1862, as those former departments became corps in a new Federal army under General John Pope. On August 9, 1862, Jackson decided to strike Union General Nathaniel P. Banks’ isolated corps before Pope’s army consolidated. Jackson enjoyed a sizeable advantage in numbers over Banks, which may have given him a level of confidence that contributed to both Jackson and division commander General Charles Winder being distracted by an artillery duel rather than attending to the proper alignment of Winder’s infantry. While Jackson was preparing to attack the Federal forces, it was Banks who first attacked the Confederates, wreaking havoc on the poorly positioned Confederate left. With Jackson rallying his troops and the timely arrival of Confederate reinforcements, a counterattack brought gray-clad superior numbers to bear and turned a near-defeat into a Confederate victory.



Greg Mertz has retired after 40 years working with the National Parks Service, with the final 36 years at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. He is currently the vice president of the Brandy Station Foundation with that battlefield and Cedar Mountain to become part of a new Culpeper Battlefields State Park in 2024.

Future 27th Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
4/9/2024	Brad Gottfried	<i>Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Antietam & Gettysburg Campaigns</i>
5/14/2024	Kevin Pawlak	<i>Fire on the Mountains: The Battles of South Mountain and Harpers Ferry, September 12-15, 1862</i>

ALL ROADS LEAD TO GETTYSBURG A CENFAD CONFERENCE



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY CITY CENTER CAMPUS
SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024 7:30 AM - 5 PM
ROOMS: 418 & 421
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CO-SPONSORS:



For more information visit: <https://liberalarts.temple.edu/research/labs-centers-and-institutes/center-study-force-and-diplomacy/lecture-series/2024-cenfad-conference-all-roads-lead-gettysburg>

Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign

CIVIL WAR SEMINARS & TOURS

Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours

100 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg, PA 17201

Tel: 717-264-7101 ext. 206

Email: civilwarseminars@gmail.com

We'll be based in Staunton, VA for this great conference focused on Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign! Gary Ecelbarger will be our main tour guide studying the Battle of Kernstown, skirmish at Meem's Bottom all the way to the Battle of Cross Keys and the Battle of Port Republic. Our lecture day will be moderated by Eric Wittenberg and include talks by: Michael C. Harris, Bill Miller, Frank O'Reilly, Scott C. Patchan, Don Pfanz and Gary Ecelbarger.

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday March 12, 2024
Meeting & Program:

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

Soup
Shrimp Scampi
Chopped Sirloin
Spaghetti w/ tomato sauce

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon, Friday, March 8, 2024, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$31.00 inclusive for meals.

***IMPORTANT NOTE* Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the FRIDAY preceding the meeting. This is the policy of Giannotti's, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the 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

April 2024



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Washington's Farewell Address set the tone for a nascent United States as the man sought to retire to his beloved Mount Vernon. Lincoln bid an affectionate farewell to friends and neighbors as he left Springfield to assume leadership of a nation already coming apart. MacArthur bid farewell before a packed Congress as he prepared to "just fade away."

This is none of these.

As those who attended our March program know, I have decided to "retire" as president of the First Defenders when my term comes to an end at the conclusion of our 27th Campaign. After a decade in office, it is time for a breath of fresh air and new leadership.

Like a veteran Civil War regiment, we are not as many as we were when I first became your leader. But, while we have lost some longtime stalwarts, we have also recruited new volunteers. And, even with the sesquicentennial and the increased interest in the Civil War long over, we continue to meet, enjoy interesting and intriguing new programs (60 years of study and I *never* heard of Camp Discharge even though my ancestor had been there!) and break bread with both the distinguished veteran historian and the up-and-coming one who will assume his place. My introduction to the First Defenders was in 2010 at Giannotti's, and I relinquish the gavel at the same venue in May.

It is not yet my intention to retire, especially to an estate I do not have (although Lisa and I do enjoy our humble abode in the country). Nor do I plan to "fade away" as we already have many interesting programs on tap for our 28th Campaign (including one by me). And, I am not bidding farewell to my old Round Table friends and new acquaintances (although, just to be safe, I think I will avoid the theatre!). To paraphrase the Happenings from 1967, I will "See You in September!"

Craig

Round Table Business

President Craig Breneiser called to order the March meeting of the First Defenders CWRT at 6:28 p.m. on March 12, 2024. Forty-one members including one guest attended. Ev Binns offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Craig made a few comments before dinner service began and welcomed everyone back after a two-months' hiatus caused by bad weather.

Craig announced that he will be stepping down from the presidency at the end of this campaign. He will be available at meetings during the next campaign to set up the electronics as he has done for the ten years of his presidency. He encourages anyone who is interested in volunteering for the Round Table to give serious consideration for a position before the May election.

Vice President/Programs

VP Joe Schaeffer reported an updated schedule of programs for the next campaign. As has been tradition, Chris Mackowski will be speaking at our September meeting. However, Chris has curtailed his speaking engagements for the future wanting to spend time with his growing family. He graciously offered to come to the First Defenders in September as a favor to all of the friends he has made over the years. Brad Gottfried will be speaking in April 2024 as well as leading a jaunt in Gettysburg in May. Details follow in 'Joe's Jaunts' article.

Both Craig Breneiser and Wally Heimbach have been rescheduled for January/February of next season since we missed their programs due to canceled meetings. There are still openings for speakers in November, April, and May.

Joe also discussed the possibility of chartering our round table as a 501 C3. By-laws would need to be written and further research needs to be done in considering this endeavor. There will be more news about this in the future.

Treasurer

Treasurer Lori Border reported the treasury had \$1586.45 as of the end of November 2023, and there was \$1661.61 at the end of the March 2024 meeting. Currently, there is \$369.00 set aside for battlefield preservation.

April Book Raffle News

A return to normalcy with nice weather allowed us to meet for our monthly meeting in March. It was great to be together with everyone again. And our membership was wonderful as we collected \$149.00 for our preservation efforts. THANK YOU! We will end our Special Raffle, which was to conclude in April, at our final meeting in May. A reminder of the items offered to our members:

~SPECIAL RAFFLE~	
Two Grand Prizes – Your Choice	Two Feature Prizes – Your Choice
1. Gettysburg Cyclorama Shadowbox	1. Pen & Key Chain Set (crafted by Michael Lewitt)
2. Gettysburg Battlefield Map	2. <i>R.E. Lee</i> – 4-volume set

-continued-

We will draw tickets for the feature prizes first with the first name drawn having the option of which feature prize to claim. After the feature prize drawing, we will draw tickets for the Grand Prize with the first name drawn having the option of claiming their selection of the Grand Prize. If you are not present for the drawing you will unfortunately lose this opportunity of selecting your preference.

A “Thank You” to members who made book donations at the March meeting. Thanks to all members for your support.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little announced reservation deadlines for the April 9, 2024, meeting. **All reservations must be received by April 5, 2024 at noon!** If you have any issues, please call Kathy. Her number and further details are found in the reservation portion of the newsletter.

Membership

Ev Binns reported the membership for the First Defenders currently stands at 52.

Newsletter

Linda Zeiber asked for any newsletter articles to be submitted to her by March 19. As usual, reports and articles are due one week following the monthly meeting. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Linda at 610-678-1168 or email at zeibers@comcast.net.

With the May election approaching quickly, I would like to let the membership know that I will be stepping down as Secretary/Newsletter at the end of this season. I have worked in this capacity for 17 years since 2007, and I want to lay down the responsibility. If anyone has an interest in taking over this job, please make it known to me or Craig. It's been a fun and, at times, a wild ride!

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer has given details for the next “Jaunt”. On Saturday morning, May 18, 2024, we will have a guided walk of sites in Gettysburg Borough. Bradley Gottfried will be our guide.

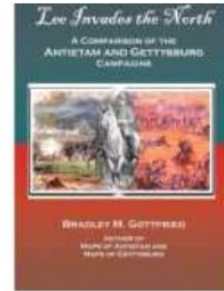
The tour will be approximately 2 hours, and the cost will be \$15.00 per person. Since the walk is in town, no mud and/or rocky trails are expected.

Joe will offer, as usual, plans for those who wish to have lunch together by arranging a location. And, we might make more of a day out of it by having a walk after lunch guided by one of our own. More details will be provided at the April 9th meeting.

April Program

Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Antietam and Gettysburg Campaigns

General Robert E. Lee embarked on two major invasions of the north in 1862 and 1863 that culminated in the battles of Antietam and Gettysburg. While each invasion has been extensively studied, there have been few (to no) comprehensive comparisons of the two. This program compares and contrasts the two campaigns that began with such promise for the Army of Northern Virginia, and will cover the political climate, war effort, the armies, leadership, military intelligence, routes to the battlefield, preliminary encounters, battlefield terrain, the battles and post-campaign events.



Bradley Gottfried was born and raised in Philadelphia and, after receiving his Ph.D. in Zoology, he embarked on a 40-year career in higher education. He retired in 2017 as the President of the College of Southern Maryland, and has written 17 books and numerous magazine articles pertaining to the Civil War. Although perhaps best known for his campaign "map books," he has also written on Gettysburg, the Point Lookout Prisoner of War Camp, and the Hope Antietam paintings. Brad is an Antietam Certified Battlefield Guide and a Gettysburg Licensed Town Guide. He and his wife, Linda, live in Fayetteville, and have four children and four grandchildren.



Future 27th Campaign Programs		
Date	Speaker	Program
5/14/2024	Kevin Pawlak	<i>Fire on the Mountains: The Battles of South Mountain and Harpers Ferry, September 12-15, 1862</i>

April...

April. The month when spring showers bring May flowers. A season of renewal and new life...

But during the Civil War, April marked a different renewal as soldiers again marched toward battle. And, it was in April when the first shots were fired in anger in Charleston Harbor in 1861.

Four years later, though, as soft spring blossoms awakened, the guns would become silent beginning at Appomattox Courthouse and ending at Palmito Ranch. From 1865 on, it would be the nation that would experience renewal, new life and a new birth of freedom that continues to flourish 159 years later. Praise be!

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday April 9, 2024
Meeting & Program:

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

Salad
Salmon
Veal Parmesan
Manicotti

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon, Friday, April 5, 2024, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$31.00 inclusive for meals.

***IMPORTANT NOTE* Once you have made your reservation, there are no cancellations for any reasons after noon on the FRIDAY preceding the meeting. This is the policy of Giannotti's, and the Round Table will be billed for your meal whether you attend or not. Please understand that you will be asked to reimburse the 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

May 2024



www.firstdefenderscwrt.us

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was several years ago that Lisa and I were invited to the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table where I was to give a lecture. Located in central New Jersey, it took about an hour to get within 10 miles of the venue and another hour to cover the final distance (Jersey traffic!!). We enjoyed our time there as we were among a likable group of interested and dedicated fellow travelers on the Civil War trail.

Now word has come informing us the Robert E. Lee CWRT is no more. This once vibrant organization, complete with its own extensive library, has been forced to strike its tent after 33 years, another victim of the modern generation's history malaise.

As I prepare to step down as president of the First Defenders, I look to our future with some trepidation. We have experienced a significant decline in membership over the past ten years as long-time friends have left for other pursuits or have gone on to commune with true Civil War veterans in eternal paradise. Yet we have also been blessed to welcome new members and make new friends, and continue to generate interest and good attendances with wonderful, interesting presentations on the Civil War period.

The fate of the Robert E. Lee CWRT could be ours as well. But, more hopefully, it could be an alarm bell in the night summoning us to do more and work harder to ensure Civil War history...indeed ALL American history... is remembered and studied critically. Our past is also our future, and we must continue to come together to ensure it is not forgotten.

It has been my privilege and honor to serve as your president for the past decade. Lisa and I look forward to the continued health and vitality of the First Defenders, its members and our friends for many years to come as we transition into new roles while others step forward to continue our traditions. Although it may be lacking in a Civil War relationship, I bid you farewell as president with a word first learned from, and often used by, my best friend: Namaste!

Craig

Round Table Business

Vice President Joe Schaeffer officiated the April meeting of the First Defenders CWRT beginning at 6:30 p.m. on April 9, 2024, at Gianotti's after President Craig Breneiser explained that the evening's guest speaker would not be attending because of a sudden illness. Craig volunteered himself for the program and, therefore, did not conduct the business meeting.

Forty-five members including two guests attended. Ev Binns offered a moving and heartfelt prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President/Programs

VP Joe Schaeffer reported an updated schedule of programs for the next campaign. As has been tradition, Chris Mackowski will be speaking at our September meeting. Joe reported that Brad Gottfried, who had been scheduled for the April program, would be re-scheduled for next campaign. That leaves only one program opening for the next campaign. The next 'Joe's Jaunt' is scheduled for May 18, 2024, in Gettysburg. Look for details later in the newsletter.

Treasurer

Treasurer Lori Border reported that the treasury has \$1414.76 as of the end of March 2024. Currently, there is \$578.00 set aside for battlefield preservation.

Website

Webmaster Lisa Breneiser reported a problem with the website that is being worked on and should be resolved prior to ordering meals for the May meeting. The manager of the site was on vacation at the time so it was not possible to order meals using our site for the April meeting. Kathy Little was able to circumvent the issue by using the phone. Sometimes one just needs old technology!

Membership

Ev Binns reported that we currently have 53 members of the round table. A sustainability conference is being held. The purpose is to learn techniques to increase and sustain round table memberships. Craig Breneiser has information regarding this important initiative for those interested in attending.

May Book Raffle News

It doesn't seem possible, but our 27th Campaign is coming to a close with our May meeting. At our May meeting we will conclude our Special Raffle for this campaign by drawing tickets for Gettysburg Cyclorama memorabilia, a Gettysburg map, a patriotic pen & key chain set, & a 1st edition 3 vol. set of *R.E. Lee* by Douglas S. Freeman. Good Luck to everyone.

We will also have the final monthly book raffle for this campaign. It can't be said enough: "Thank you to everyone who buys tickets, donates books, or gives donations." Our work supports the preservation of our history. We took in \$150.00 in our May raffle. An excellent effort! To everyone---enjoy your summer & hope to see everyone in September.

Meal Captain

Kathy Little announced reservation deadlines for the May 14, 2024, meeting. All reservations must be received by May 10, 2024, at noon. If you have any issues, please call Kathy. Her number and further details are found in the reservation portion of the newsletter.

Preservation

Mark Quattrochio informed the membership about a matching grant through the American Battlefield Trust with a leverage of \$50:\$1. Mark suggested a gift of \$400 in order to take advantage of this generous leverage. The membership approved the motion unanimously.

Newsletter

With the May election approaching quickly, I would like to let the membership know that I will be stepping down as Secretary/Newsletter at the end of this season. I have worked in this capacity for 17 years since 2007, and I want to lay down the responsibility. If anyone has an interest in taking over this job, please make it known to me or Craig. I want to thank those of you for acknowledging and thanking me for my contribution to our organization.

Linda

Joe's Jaunts

Joe Schaeffer has given details for the next "Jaunt". On Saturday morning, May 18, 2024, we will have a guided walk of sites in Gettysburg Borough. Bradley Gottfried will be our guide. The group will meet at 9:00 a.m. in Gettysburg. Contact Joe Schaeffer if you plan to attend.

The tour will be approximately 2 hours, and the cost will be \$15.00 per person. Since the walk is in town, no mud and/or rocky trails are expected.

Joe will offer, as usual, plans for those who wish to have lunch together by arranging a location. He thinks that we might make more of a day out of it by having a walk after lunch guided by one of our own.

May Program

Fire on the Mountains: The Battles of South Mountain and Harpers Ferry, September 12-15, 1862

featuring Kevin Pawlak

In mid-September 1862, Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia undertook a bold advance north of the Potomac River into Maryland. Their invasion would come to a premature end on September 17th along the Antietam Creek outside of Sharpsburg; however, three days earlier a bloody prelude took place along South Mountain. At Harpers Ferry, Crampton's Gap, Turner's Gap and Fox's Gap artillery and musketry fire and the smoke they created engulfed the landscape on nearly a fifteen-mile front. Lee fought for time to reunite his badly fragmented army while George McClellan and the Army of the Potomac fought to drive the enemy from Maryland and relieve Harpers Ferry. The Battle of South Mountain actually constituted four separate actions that literally and figuratively resulted in "fire on the mountains."



Kevin Pawlak is a historic site manager for Prince William County's Office of Historic Preservation and a Certified Battlefield Guide at Antietam National Battlefield. He previously worked as a Park Ranger at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Kevin is the author of seven books about the American Civil War, including To Hazard All: A Guide to the Maryland Campaign, 1862, part of the Emerging Civil War Series and Such a Clash of Arms: The Maryland Campaign of September 1862. This will be Kevin's third presentation to the First Defenders.

28th Campaign Reorganization

The May meeting and program brings to an end our successful 27th Campaign (marred, unfortunately, by two weather-related cancellations.) September, though, is a mere four months away, and that means our 28th Campaign is on the horizon!

May also means it is time to elect our leadership for the coming campaign. Both President Breneiser and Secretary Zeiber are stepping away from their positions after long service. These offices, along with those of Vice President and Treasurer, will be up for election by the membership. Any member is eligible to serve in any office: the only qualification is a desire to advance the Round Table mission to educate. This is your opportunity to make a difference!

Dinner Reservations for the Tuesday, May 14, 2024,
Meeting & Program:

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

Salad
Broiled Crab Imperial
Lasagna
Cheese Tortellini

If you make your reservation online and you do not receive a thank-you and/or confirmation email, your reservation did not go through. If you must call in reservations, please call your menu selection to Kathy Little at 610-367-8082 no later than noon, Friday, May 10, 2024, which is also the deadline for online reservations. The price is \$31.00 inclusive for meals.

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