

# **THE HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF "CONGENIAL" STUDY & DEBATE**

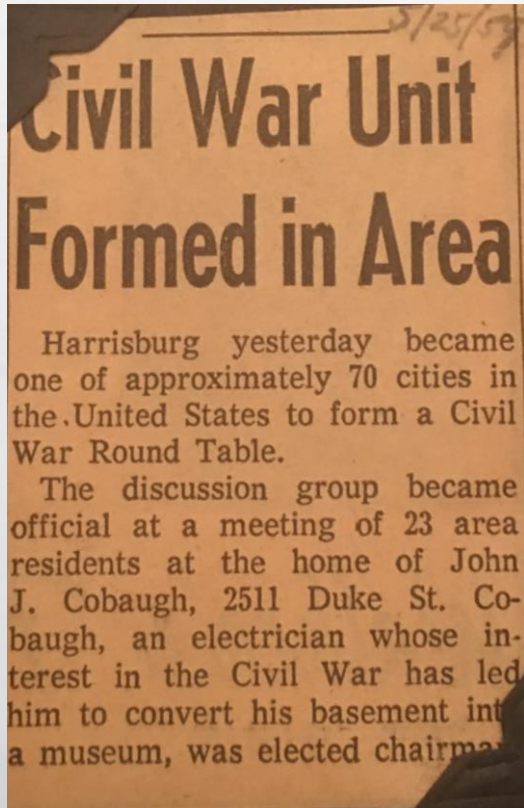


# OUR FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE...

- “TO PROVIDE A CONGENIAL MEDIUM THROUGH WHICH PERSONS HAVING A COMMON INTEREST IN THE EVENTS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MAY BROADEN INDIVIDUAL KNOWLEDGE THROUGH DISCUSSION, LECTURES, FIELD TRIPS, AND THE EXCHANGE OF BOOKS, PAPERS, AND OTHER DATA.”

... from Article II of the Harrisburg CWRT Constitution

# “IN THE BEGINNING...”



**A 1959 MEDIA BLITZ ...**

# “IN THE BEGINNING...”

3/25/57

## Civil War Unit Formed in Area

Harrisburg yesterday became one of approximately 70 cities in the United States to form a Civil War Round Table.

The discussion group became official at a meeting of 23 area residents at the home of John J. Cobaugh, 2511 Duke St. Cobaugh, an electrician whose interest in the Civil War has led him to convert his basement into a museum, was elected chairman.

3/25/57

## Civil War Unit Slates Meeting

Robert D. Hoffsommer will address the new Harrisburg Civil War Round Table at 2 p.m. Sunday at 2511 Duke St. He will speak on “The Battery That Saved a Battle,” a phase of the Battle of Gettysburg.

In addition to hearing Hoffsommer’s address, the group will elect and install permanent officers.

The meeting will be held in a basement-museum at the home of John J. Cobaugh, temporary chairman of the Round Table. Cobaugh invited anyone in the Harrisburg area interested in the Civil War to attend. He emphasized that members of the new discussion group needn’t be “experts” in Civil War.

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Cobaugh, temporary chairman of the group, said attendance and membership are not limited to “experts” on Civil War matters. Interest in the conflict between the North and South is the only requirement.

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**WAR BUFFS TO INSTITUTE ‘ROUND TABLE’**

Harrisburg may soon join the ranks of cities having Civil War Round Tables.

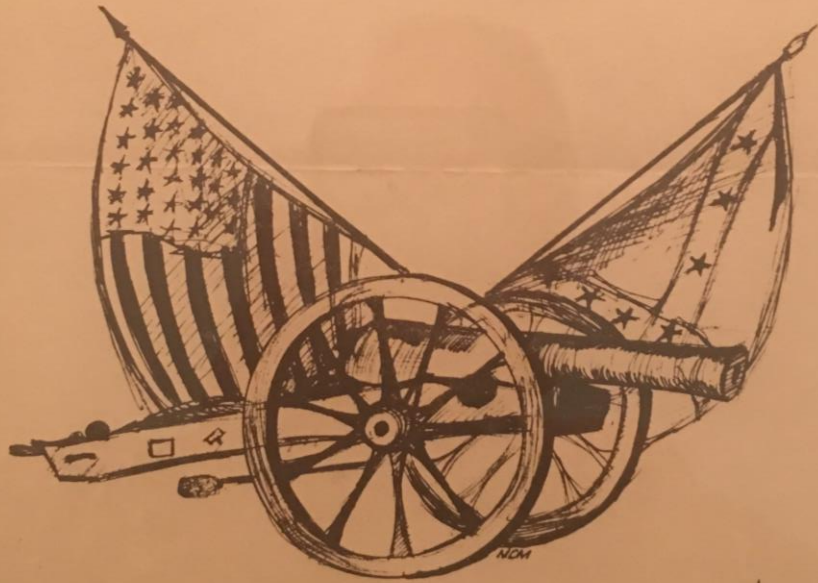
A meeting to form one of the discussion groups is scheduled to be held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the home of John J. Cobaugh, 2511 Duke St.

Any resident of the Harrisburg area who likes to study and talk about the Civil War is invited to take part in the formation of a permanent group at his home Sunday, Cobaugh said.

The first Round Table was begun by a handful of men in a Chicago bookshop in 1940. Since that time the movement has grown to 678 groups with a total membership of about 5,200. Each Round Table is autonomous. The nearest group to Harrisburg is in Gettysburg.

# OPENING SKIRMISH HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

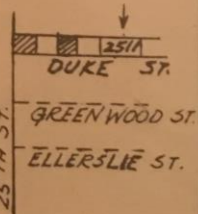
PURPOSE: To organize the HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
PLACE: 2511 DUKE STREET - HARRISBURG, PA.  
DATE: Sunday MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> 1959  
TIME: 2:30 P.M.



## REFRESHMENTS

YOUR HOST: JOHN J. COBAUGH  
2511 DUKE ST. CE 2-6602

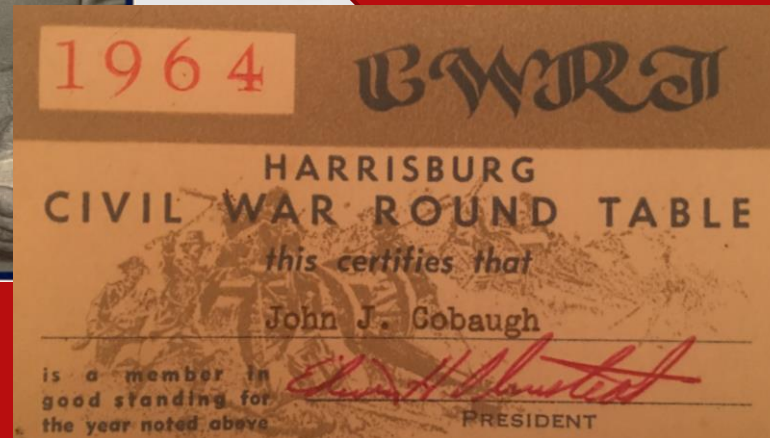
HARRISBURG, PA.  
23<sup>RD</sup> ST.  
24<sup>TH</sup> ST.  
25<sup>TH</sup> ST.  
DERRY ST.



**OUR FIRST MEETING  
TOOK PLACE ON  
MAY 24, 1959, IN OUR  
FIRST PRESIDENT'S  
HOME IN HARRISBURG**

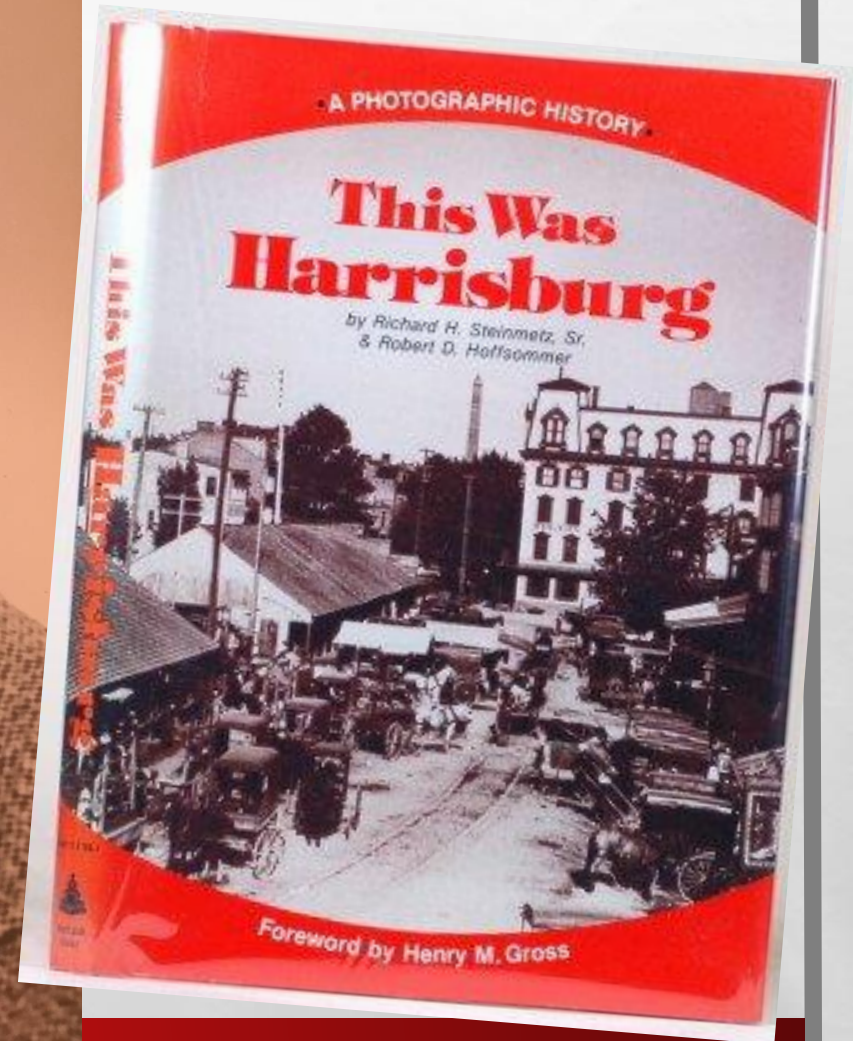


**OUR FIRST PRESIDENT, JOHN  
J. COBAUGH, PRESENTING A  
GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD  
PRESERVATION ASSOCIA-  
TION MEDAL TO PRESIDENT  
EISENHOWER IN 1963**





**OUR SECOND  
PRESIDENT, ROBERT  
D. HOFFSOMMER,  
REVIEWED HISTORY  
BOOKS FOR THE CIVIL  
WAR TIMES, AND CO-  
AUTHORED A BOOK  
ON THE HISTORY OF  
HARRISBURG**



**OUR SECOND  
MEETING PLACE  
WAS THE OLD  
STATE MUSEUM  
NEXT TO THE  
CAPITOL . . .**



—Evening News Photo

**STUDY OF BATTLEFIELD**—Looking over a map<sup>o</sup> of the Gettysburg battlefield at a Civil War Roundtable meeting are, from left, R. D. Hoffsommer, John J. Cobaugh and Henry A. Estricher, all of Harrisburg. The group met at the State Museum.

**... WHICH ALSO HOUSED ROTHERMEL'S  
GIGANTIC PAINTING OF PICKETT'S CHARGE**



**OUR PAST  
PRESIDENTS  
USED THIS GAVEL  
TO CALL OUR  
MEETINGS TO  
ORDER**



# **THE HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**A TRADITION OF BATTLEFIELD & ARTIFACT PRESERVATION**



**OUR FOUNDING FATHERS WERE CLEVER FUNDRAISERS  
AND ARDENT BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATIONISTS.  
APPROXIMATELY 20% OF THE CURRENT GETTYSBURG  
NATIONAL MILITARY PARK WAS PURCHASED THROUGH  
THEIR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS, INCLUDING THE GEORGE  
ROSE FARM, THE TIMBERS FARM, AND THE LADY FARM.**



**JACK COBAUGH &  
BOB HOFFSOMMER  
(LEFT) WERE CHARTER  
MEMBERS OF THE  
GETTYSBURG  
BATTLEFIELD  
PRESERVATION  
ASSOCIATION (GBPA)**



**Photo taken in Hollywood actor Cliff Arquette's office in Gettysburg, December 3, 1959**



**THE GEORGE ROSE FARM AS IT APPEARS TODAY**



# Pair Gather 'Lot of Junk' And Make It Worth Money -In a Basement Museum

"We have gathered a lot of junk together and made it worth money."

That is the way John J. Cobough, of 2311 Duke St., and R. D. Hoffsommer, a John Harris High School teacher, describe the growth of the private Civil War museum housed in the basement of Cobough's home.

Cobough an electrician at Olmsted, is the collector, Hoffsommer the curator. Together they have created in a 26-by-31-foot room an historic atmosphere with color rarely matched in commercial or government museums.

GLASS ENCLOSED cases along the walls contain, among other items, army field officers' dress swords, bayonets, copies of Civil War period newspapers, Union and Confederate money (including a \$3 bill printed in Gettysburg), soldiers' hymn books put out by Boston YMCA, bullets, a much-

valued Colt .44 pistol and other relics.

Let this seem much the same as any other museum, note these items:—A black, No. 1 size coffin used to bury Union dead at Gettysburg. The coffin is notable in that its size—the "average" in which about 63 per cent of the dead were buried—is about 2 inches smaller than the average Army coffin of today.

—Colorful window drapes done by Mrs. Cobough in the Civil War motif, with drums, bugles and the music of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" on them.

—A 300- POUND church bell said to have been rung at Wrightsville on Jan. 29, 1863, to warn the populace of the approaching Confederate troops.

—A note written by Abraham Lincoln, bearing his signature, various rare steel engravings show-

ing Lincoln and his Cabinet and Gen. Grant, and a newspaper issue of the day Lincoln died.

Cobough's great-grandfather served in the Civil War, and it was from older relatives' stories that his interest in the war developed. He has purchased most of the contents of his museum, some of which was the J. Howard Wert collection. But, in describing how he comes by new material, he laughs "We buy, beg, borrow and don't return and we steal!" Then he adds, "But we don't steal from other museums."

HOFFSOMMER is an English teacher whose interest in and knowledge of history is of professional stature. To him is given credit for the arrangement of the basement museum which is air conditioned and humidity controlled to keep its valuable items in good condition. Of Hoffsommer, Cobough says, "He is responsible for the museum's pleasantness. He give it loving care."

The many large pictures adorning some of the walls—including a 5-by-3 foot drawing of the prison camp at Andersonville and other valued engravings—complement some of the smaller items—medals, delegates' badges for the 1860 Republican convention which nominated Lincoln and a later convention which nominated Grant—which can be enjoyed most by serious students of the period.

Cobough is proud of many of his possessions: His guns, including the Burnside and Maynard carbines and the 7-shot magazine-fed Spencer; the carpet bag; the Union Army captain's uniform; the paintings of the Battle of Gettysburg; the muster-out muster-in and pay muster rolls; the Great Seal of the Confederacy done in silver for desk mounting; the Confederate States of America bonds (with some of the coupons clipped); and his pointer of wood, whittled at Andersonville's prison. But in speaking to him, one gets the idea that his favorite is a rare glass dinnerware collection made in 1913 for the 50th anniversary of the war as celebrated at Gettysburg.

THE ITEMS WERE sold as souvenirs and bought separately, usually. But today there may be no other full set, as Cobough has in the museum.

The "junk" which became a museum is shown at times by Cobough and Hoffsommer to small groups who are "intensely in-



—Evening News Photo  
**COLLECTOR'S ITEM**—Craig Caba, 11, cleans his .69 caliber percussion-type Whitneyville rifle used by the Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War.

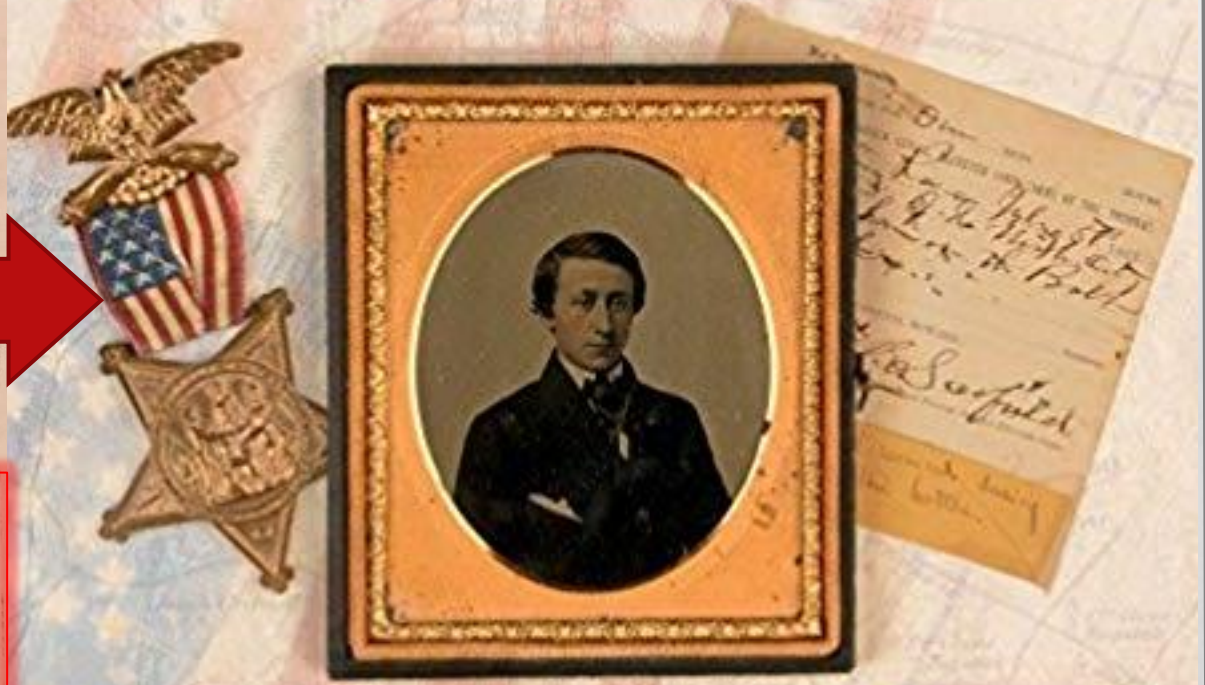
## CIVIL WAR IN SPOTLIGHT Boy, 11, Builds Own Museum

8/12/60

Most grade school pupils spend their spare time skipping rope, playing games, learning sports and watching TV. Craig Caba, 11, of 628 S. 26th St., has done all that and some-

# J. HOWARD WERT'S GETTYSBURG

A Collection of Relics from the Civil War Battle



BRUCE E. MOWDAY AND G. CRAIG CABA

**THE HCWRT HAS A RICH TRADITION OF COLLECTING CIVIL WAR ARTIFACTS ...**

**Todd Bush**



**Jim & Karl Brommer**

**UNIFORM OF THE DAY** — Todd Bush, of Mechanicsburg, wearing uniform of the 79th New York Highlanders, shows James Brommer, of Mechanicsburg, vice president, and his son, Karl, a sword belonging to Gen. S. W. Crawford, commander of a Pennsylvania reserve brigade at Gettysburg.

**REVERENCE FOR AND CARE OF HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS ARE PART OF OUR TRADITION**

# THE HCWRT HAS \$ ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO:

## MANY CIVIL WAR ...

- CENTRAL VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELD TRUST
- WILLOW GROVE CEMETERY MEMORIAL FUND
- BRANDY STATION FOUNDATION
- CAMP CURTIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY & CWRT
- JOHNSON ISLAND PROJECT, SANDUSKY, OHIO

## ... PRES\$ERVATION ...

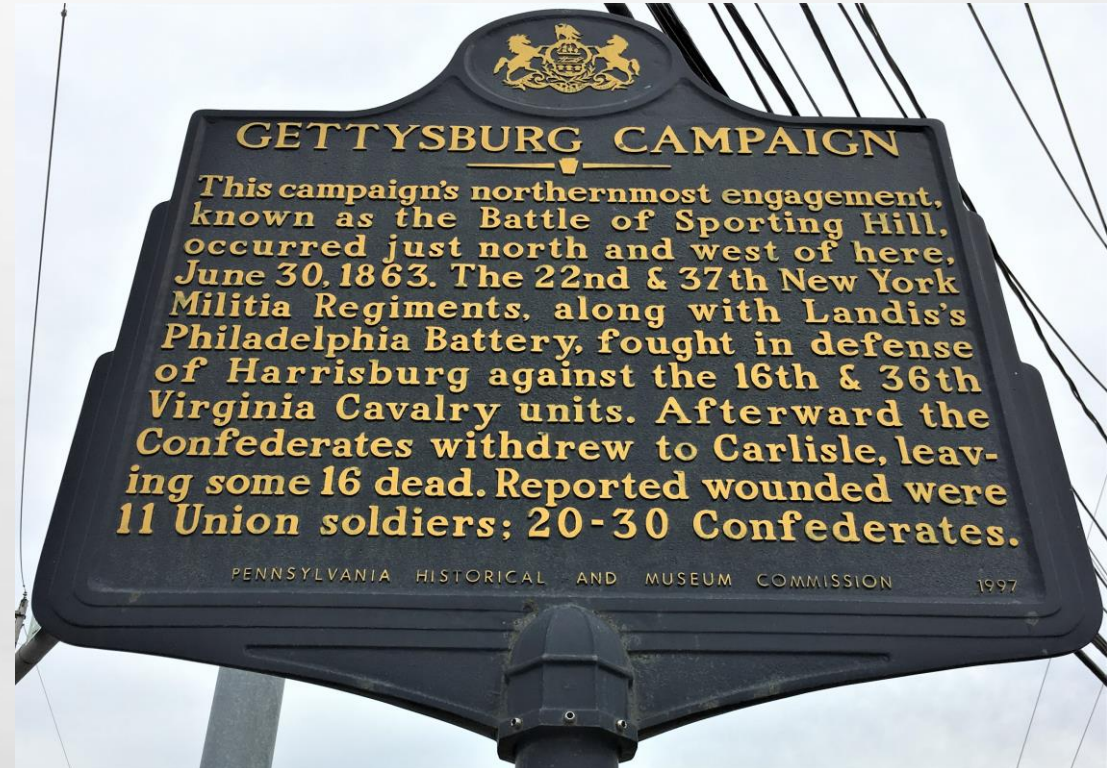
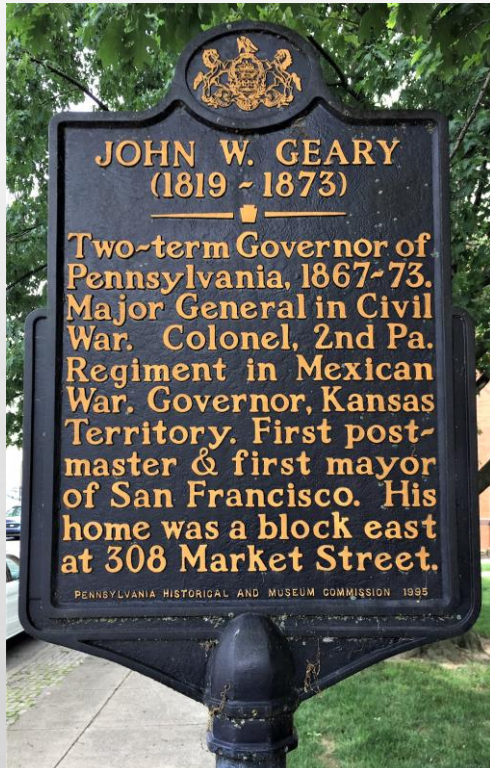
- CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST – HATCHER'S RUN, PETERSBURG
- CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST – SPOTSYLVANIA MULE SHOE
- CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST – HARPERS FERRY, SCHOOLHOUSE RIDGE
- CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST – BRANDY STATION, FLEETWOOD HILL

## ... PROJECT\$

- ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD WEST WOODS RESTORATION PROJECT
- SEMINARY RIDGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
- PRESERVATION OF LEE'S HEADQUARTERS AT GETTYSBURG, NORTH ANNA, ANTIETAM, & BURKITTSVILLE
- FALLING WATERS HISTORICAL ASSN.



# AND ERECTED STATE HISTORICAL MARKERS IN NEW CUMBERLAND AND SPORTING HILL:



# **THE HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**THE EVOLUTION OF OUR NEWSLETTERS**



# BATTLE PLANS

HARRISBURG PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Skirmish I - Volley 1

Harrisburg, Pa.

June 1959

\* \* \* \* \*

PLACE: 2511 Duke Street, Harrisburg, Pa.  
DATE: Sunday, June 28, 1959  
TIME: 2:00 o'clock P.M. EDST  
SPEAKER: Professor Hoffsomers (HBG CWRT)

\* \* \* \* \*

## RE M I N D E R S

Qualification for charter membership - personal presence at either the organizational meeting of May or the first regular meeting, June 28, 1959.

Pleeze bring along and ware your dog tag issued at last meeting (cant hardly git these no more).

## B I G D O I N G S

Permanent officers to be elected and installed.

Much reconnoiterin' accomplished for July Field Trip - Details at June meeting.

Membership cards printed and in the hands of the Treasurer - Cards will be issued at June meeting.

## O U R S P E A K E R

Professor Hoffsomers, one of our charter members, will speak briefly on one of the lesser known aspects of the Battle of Gettysburg. His title - "The Battery that Saved a Battle".

Your CWRT Scribe

**OUR FIRST HCWRT  
NEWSLETTER WAS  
ON THE SHORT SIDE.  
MORE DETAILED  
VERSIONS FOLLOWED  
OVER THE YEARS ...**

# Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

P. O. BOX 1091, HARRISBURG, PA.

## News Letter

Skirmish 9  
Volley 7

MARCH 1968

# 1968

"... I knew General Custer well; have known him intimately since boyhood; and being on opposite sides during the late war, we often met and secured strength on the fields of Virginia, and I can truly say now that I never met a more entertaining, gallant, or dangerous enemy during those four years of terrible war, or a more genial, wholesome, chivalrous gentleman and friend in peace than Major General George A. Custer." Quote from ex-Major General G.S.A. Thomas L. Rosser in St. Paul & Minneapolis "Pioneer-Press" July 6, 1876.

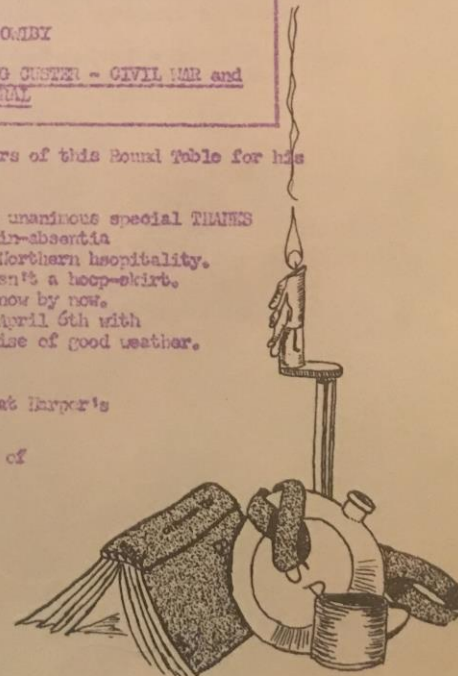
Date	FRIDAY MARCH 29, 1968
Place	Spark-Al Restaurant, Emmoys, Penna.
Time	Custer 7 PM Custer 8 PM
Speaker	COL. JAMES D. BOMBY
Topic	<u>GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER - CIVIL WAR and INDIAN WAR GENERAL</u>

Our speaker needs no introduction to members of this Round Table for his competence and eloquence.

The Philadelphia Field Trippers offer their unanimous special TRIPPS to Messrs. Whitman, Saylor, and Hartnett plus in-absentia Mr. R. Graeme Smith for a s u p e r b trip and Northern hospitality. Even Ev Cooper feels relieved that it really wasn't a hoop-skirt. You that missed this trip ... well you should know by now. So with fair warning - next trip to Winchester April 6th with Mr. Lewis Barton as historian guide and a promise of good weather.

In case you missed it:  
John Brown's "Fort" is being relocated at Harper's Ferry to the original location.

July 1-4, 1968 battle reenactments west of Gettysburg at South E. Fair Grounds.



# Harrisburg Civil War Round Table



g Civil War Round Table  
 O. BOX 1091, HARRISBURG, PA.  
 News Letter

MARCH 1968

Skirmish 13  
 January meeting:  
 Date: Friday, January 28, 1972  
 Time: Dinner, 7:00, Speaker, 8:00  
 Place: Country Kitchen, Lemoyne  
 Speaker: Dr. Richard Sommers, Archivist-Historian,  
 Army Research Collection, Carlisle  
 Subject: Seige of Petersburg

Dinner reservations should be made no later than January 27.  
 Mail or call your reservations to Mr. C. Leroy Green, 221 Apple Drive,  
 Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17055 Phone: 766-0986. Checks payable to:  
 Harrisburg Civil War Round Table (\$3.00 per dinner)  
 Menu: Swiss Steak or Baked Haddock (see reservation form)

\*\*\*\*\*

Our speaker, Dr. Richard Sommers, was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1942. He completed his under-graduate work at Carleton College, Northfield, Minn. from 1960-'64. His Ph.D. was earned at Rice Univ., Houston, Texas, where he studied from 1964-1970. Dr. Sommers studied under the renowned Civil War scholar, Dr. Frank Vandever. His dissertation was a 1500 page study of the four day battle which was a part of the nine month seige of Petersburg.

After serving on the staff of the Jefferson Davis Association, Rice University, Dr. Sommers moved to the Army War College, Carlisle, in October 1970 to serve as Archivist-Historian for the Army-Military Historical Research Collection.

Dr. Sommers considers the Civil War as his major field of competence. His work on Petersburg has spanned seven years, and will eventually become the source of a book.  
 I have heard Dr. Sommers speak. Don't miss his presentation.

Our display at the January dinner-meeting will feature the "G.A.R." Larry Bailey & Douglas Gibbons will bring in portions of their collections for the display. Norman Daniels will bring in an unusual display item; one you don't want to miss. Bob Thomas, a new member, will have something to feature. Come out and have a great evening.

After weeks of unusually warm weather, winter seems to have arrived. Think spring! Everett Cooper, chairman of our Field Trip Committee, sent me the following epistle:

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FRIDAY MARCH 29, 1968

Spark-Al Restaurant, Lemoyne, Penna.

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COL. JAMES D. BOMBAY

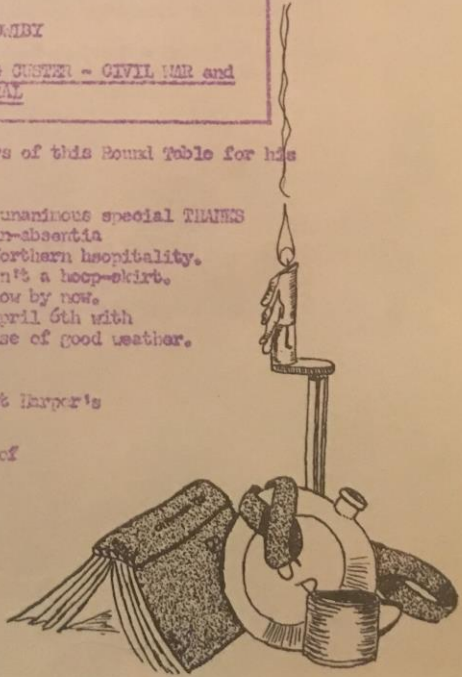
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1972



# Harrisburg Civil War Round Table News Letter



g Civil War Round  
O. BOX 1091, HARRISBURG, PA.  
News Letter

Skirmish 13

January 1972

Volley 5

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FRIDAY MARCH 29, 1968

Spark-Al Restaurant, Lemoyne

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COL. JAMES D. BOMBAY

GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER  
INDIAN WAR GENERAL

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HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
Newsletter  
Skirmish 15  
Volley 10  
Picture's Charge, Battle of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863. Picture from the Cyclorama at Gettysburg, Pa.

President: Richard Sommers  
V. President: Ernest Stotler  
Treasurer: Leroy Green  
Secretary: Henry Estricher

May 17, 1974, will rank as one of the most memorable dates in the annals of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table. Any anniversary celebration is, of course, noteworthy, but the participation of Dr. Vandiver made our fifteenth anniversary especially outstanding. His excellent address on Jefferson Davis and the active discussion it prompted were the highlights of the evening. A splendid gathering of some 111 people turned out to hear him and help commemorate our anniversary.

Another sizable force assembled for our final field trip of the year, June 1: 30 people. For nine hours this goodly caravan traversed mountain fastnesses, rolling foothills, and narrow back roads to retrace the Federal pursuit of Lee from Gettysburg to Williamsport. Our thanks are due the eight guides who led us over this terrain: Ken Piper, Ernie Stotler, Jim Brommer, Carl Crouse, Bill and Lawson Matter, Dave Kirk, and George Lindsey. None except Bill had guided before this trip, but all did a fine job on this occasion. Appreciation also goes to Mr. Cooper, who displayed the Confederates' well known ability not only to obtain provisions beforehand but also to forage off the land. Ev further deserves credit for securing us weather so reminiscent of the rainy days of mid July, 1863.

Our field trips for the season ended, June 1, but one dinner meeting remains:

Dinner Meeting, Friday, June 14  
Place: Dutch Pantry Restaurant, Camp Hill  
Dinner: 7:00 p.m.; Presentation: 7:45 p.m.  
Topic: Annual Business Meeting

The meeting will feature a number of events of historical interest. Bill Engle, Jim Haas, and Evelyn Enig will each report on a Civil War book they have read this year - all works that will be of interest to the membership. Jackie Lapitsky, in addition, will present the elementary history of our Round Table which she has compiled. Jackie has really devoted a lot of work to this project and has come up with a fine compilation. Then, too, some artifacts may be displayed, and it is customary at this meeting for members to bring in photographs taken on our various field trips since October.

1974



# Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

Skirmish 13  
January 1989



CAMPAIGN 30

SKIRMISH 10

"Jefferson Davis and His Generals"  
Dr. Grady McWhiney, Texas Christian University  
30th Anniversary Banquet

Jefferson Davis enjoyed so many advantages. He was a soldier professionally educated at West Point. He was a war hero at Monterrey and Buena Vista in the Mexican War. He was Secretary of War in the administration of Franklin Pierce. And he was Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee of the U.S. Senate. Experience with Regulars and Volunteers and with the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch as well as education, self image, and popular perception all marked him as someone exceptionally well qualified to become wartime President of the new Confederate States of America. Davis was, in the words of a contemporary, "the heart and brains" of the Confederate government. He appeared to be just the man to lead the seceding South through war to independence.

This widespread confidence in Jefferson Davis did not survive the war. In what ways did he seem to fall short? How accurate were contemporary and subsequent criticisms of him? What, in particular, were his personal and professional relations with his Army high command? The Confederacy, after all, went to war led by generals of high reputation and great ability. R.E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson, Beauregard and Bragg, Polk and Hardee, Stuart, Jubal A. Early, John Bell Hood - the list goes on and on. How did Davis, as Commander-in-Chief, select, utilize or fail to utilize - these battle commanders? To what extent did personal or political considerations affect his professional judgement in such matters? Was his involvement in waging the war more helpful or more harmful to the Southern cause? How fair or unfair is it to blame him in these various respects?

A leader so heroic, so talented, and so tragic as the Confederate President cannot help but inspire comment, controversy, and questions. The special 30th Anniversary Program of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table will address these questions. For almost 40 years now, students of the Civil War have benefited from the late T. Harry Williams' monumental Lincoln and His Generals. Now come join us for our anniversary banquet to hear the challenging counterpart interpretation of "Jefferson Davis and His Generals."

Our speaker has developed this thought-provoking analysis in a lifetime of Civil War scholarship. Dr. Grady McWhiney is one of the most distinguished Civil War historians of our time. This native of Shreveport initially did his undergraduate and graduate work in his own state at Centenary College and Louisiana State University. After getting his doctorate from Columbia University in 1960,

Our dinner will feature a number of events of historical interest. Jackie Lapitsky, in addition, will present the documentary history of our Round Table which she has compiled. Jackie has devoted a lot of work to this project and has come up with a compilation. Then, too, some artifacts may be displayed, and it is customary at this meeting for members to bring in photographs taken during various field trips since October.

After we think spring sent me the

# HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## Harrisburg Dispatch

President: Richard J. Sommers  
Vice President: William L. Mangold  
Secretary: Herbert F. Barber  
Treasurer: Kim Ledger

MAY, 1989

# War Round Table

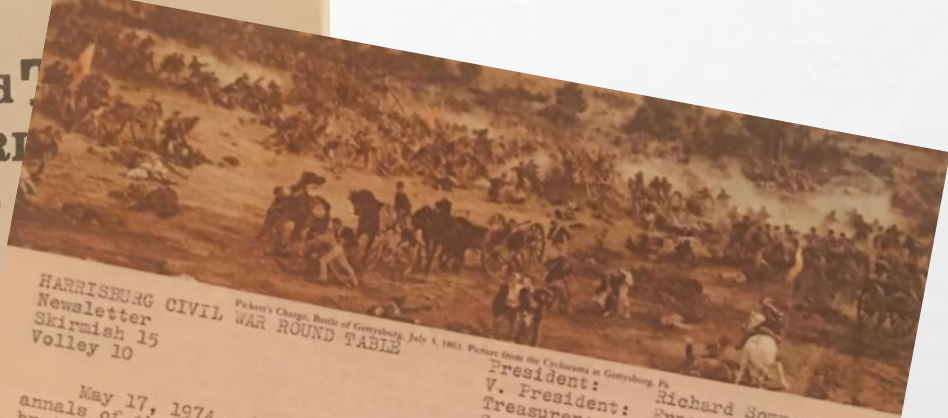
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HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
Newsletter  
Skirmish 15  
Volley 10

President: Richard Sommers  
V. President: Ernest Stotler  
Treasurer: Leroy Green  
Secretary: Henry Estricher

May 17, 1974, will rank as one of the most memorable dates in the annals of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table. Any anniversary celebration is, of course, noteworthy, but the participation of Dr. Vandiver made our fifteenth anniversary especially outstanding. His excellent address on Jefferson Davis and the active discussion it prompted were the highlights of the evening. A splendid gathering of some 111 people turned out to hear him and help commemorate our anniversary.

Another sizable force assembled for our final field trip of the year, June 1: 30 people. For nine hours this goodly caravan traversed mountain fastnesses, rolling foothills, and narrow back roads to retrace the Federal pursuit of Lee from Gettysburg to Williamsport. Our thanks are due the eight guides who led us over this terrain: Ken Piper, Ernie Stotler, Jim Brommer, Carl Crouse, Bill and Lawson Matter, Dave Kirk, and George Lindsey. None except Bill had guided before this trip, but all did a fine job on this occasion. Appreciation also goes to Mr. Cooper, who displayed the Confederates' well known ability not only to obtain provisions beforehand but also to forage off the land. Lv furthur deserves credit for securing us weather so reminiscent of the rainy days of mid July, 1863.

Our field trips for the season ended, June 1, but one dinner meeting remains:

Dinner Meeting, Friday, June 14  
Place: Dutch Pantry Restaurant, Camp Hill  
Dinner: 7:00 p.m.; Presentation: 7:45 p.m.  
Topic: Annual Business Meeting

The meeting will feature a number of events of historical interest. Jackie Lapitsky, in addition, will present the documentary history of our Round Table which she has compiled. Jackie has devoted a lot of work to this project and has come up with a compilation. Then, too, some artifacts may be displayed, and it is customary at this meeting for members to bring in photographs taken during various field trips since October.

1989

# Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

Skirmish 13  
January 1989



## HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE Harrisburg Dispatch

President: Richard J. Sommers  
Vice President: William L. Mangold  
Secretary: Herbert F. Barber  
Treasurer: Kim Ledger

MAY, 1989

"Jefferson Davis and His Generals"  
Dr. Grady McWhiney, Texas Christian University  
30th Anniversary Banquet

CAMPAIGN 30

SKIRMISH 10

Dinner menu available...  
Mail or call...  
Mechanicsburg  
Harrisburg, PA  
Menu:

Jefferson Davis enjoyed so many advantages. He was a soldier professional...  
What was a war hero at Monterrey and Buena Vista in the Mexican War. He was Secretary of War in the administration of Franklin Pierce...  
He was Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee of the U.S. Senate. As well as education, self image, and popular perception all marked him...  
with Regulars and Volunteers and with the Executive Branch and Legislative...  
as well as education, self image, and popular perception all marked him...  
exceptionally well qualified to become wartime President of the new Confederate States of America. Davis was, in the words of a contemporary, "the best...  
of the Confederate government. He appeared to be just the man to lead the South through war to independence."

Our speaker...  
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This widespread confidence in Jefferson Davis did not survive...  
what ways did he seem to fall short? How accurate were contempor...  
criticisms of him? What, in particular, were his personal and p...  
tions with his Army high command? The Confederacy, after all, v...  
generals of high reputation and great ability. R.E. Lee and "G...  
Beauregard and Bragg, Polk and Hardee, Stuart and Longstreet...  
the Hills, Edmund Kirby Smith and G.W. Smith, Jubal A. Early...  
the list goes on and on. How did Davis, as Commander-in-Chief...  
or fail to utilize - these battle commanders? To what extent...  
political considerations affect his professional judgement...  
his involvement in waging the war more helpful or more har...  
cause? How fair or unfair is it to blame him in these va...

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Anniversary Program of the Harrisburg Civil War Round...  
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Our speaker has developed this thought-provoking...  
Civil War scholarship. Dr. Grady McWhiney is one of the mos...  
war historians of our time. This native of Shreveport initially...  
graduate and graduate work in his own state at Centenary College and...  
State University. After getting his doctorate from Columbia University in

Campaign 60  
Skirmish 9  
May 17, 2019

# The Dispatch

Newsletter of The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table  
Welcome to our fellowship forum where we discuss our past, emphasizing...  
remembrance, education & preservation.  
Meetings held at The Radisson Penn-Harris Hotel-1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania  
Online: www.HarrisburgCWRT.org

Editor  
Tracy Sommers  
dictracypa@gmail.com

## 60th Anniversary Celebration Banquet May 17—Peter S. Carmichael Diagnosing Trauma and Curing Cowardice: Enduring Combat during the Civil War

Dr. Carmichael is the Robert C. Fluhrer Professor of Civil War Studies and the...  
Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College. He received his BA...  
from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and completed his doct...  
torate at Penn State University under Dr. Gary Gallagher.



Dr. Carmichael is the author and editor of four books and has published a...  
number of journal articles. He is a frequent speaker on the Civil War and every...  
June directs the Civil War Institute's Summer Conference which draws at...  
tendees from across the country.

In his talk, Dr. Carmichael will explore how Civil War soldiers coped with com...  
bat stress at a time when Americans did not possess a modern understanding...  
of battlefield trauma or what we might broadly label as PTSD today. Idealism, medical knowledge, and...  
forces of coercion explain how both sides came to live with the turbulent memories of the battlefield. His...  
presentation reminds us that Civil War soldiers were neither victors nor victims over combat. Rather, there...  
were many faces of battle, and veterans showed many layers of their being even in a single engagement.

His latest book, *The War for the Common Soldier*, will be available at the event at a significant discount.

DINNER IS SERVED!  
FRIDAY, May 17  
Governor B—Hotel

6:00 pm—St. James Punch  
7:45 pm—Meeting  
6:45 pm—Dinner  
8:00 pm—Talk

Menu Options:  
(A) Lemon Basil Chicken  
(B) Crab Cake

The dinner also includes  
Chef's Soup, Tuscan Rolls and Butter,  
Cheesecake  
Coffee, Tea

Cost: \$24 per person.

Dinner reservations must be made no later than 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 14  
Phone Sam Waldrop at 717-422-3007 or email at hcwr.membership@gmail.com

### Executive Officers

President, Linda Meenehan  
Meenehan1961@comcast.net  
Vice President, Steve Smith  
smith337@erau.edu  
Treasurer, Norm Daniels  
nd500@aol.com  
Secretary, Ed Hicks  
secretary@harrisburgcwrt.org

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Bruce Appgar  
Joe Bosler  
Jim Brommer  
Rick Eiserman  
Greg Hillebrand  
Richard Sommers

### Standing Committees

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Communications/PR, Todd Little  
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Membership, Sam Waldrop  
Newsletter, Tracy Sommers  
Nominating, Jim Moss  
Presentation, Curtis Wolf  
Program, Al Mackey  
Webmaster, John West

### Web Links

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member.html  
FIELD TRIPS  
www.harrisburgcwrt.org/info.html

Richard Sommers  
West Stotler  
Roy Green  
Henry Estreicher

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# 2019



**MARKING THE SPOT** — Examining site of Ft. Washington in what is now Negley Park, Lemoyne, for a Harrisburg Civil War Round Table field trip are Mrs. Jacquelynn Laptisky, past president; James Haas, left; and Dr. Gerald Brinton.



**FLAGGING ATTENTION** — Examining the Confederate flag and a Union drum are, from left, Kenneth L. Piper, of Harrisburg, treasurer; Merle Hartzell, of New Cumberland, president of Dauphin County Historical Society; Thomas R. Leeds, of Harrisburg, secretary.



**FOLLOWING THE BATTLE** — Joseph M. Boslet, right, of Harrisburg, Round Table president, uses a new sequence map to explain Battle of Spotsylvania, to Dr. Joseph L. Harsh, left, history professor at Eastern Mason University, Fairfax, Va., and Willie R. Kochan, of Mechanicsburg.



**FOLLOWING THE BATTLE** — Joseph M. Boslet, right, of Harrisburg, Round Table president, uses a new sequence map to explain Battle of Spotsylvania, to Dr. Joseph L. Harsh, left, history professor at Eastern Mason University, Fairfax, Va., and Willie R. Kochan, of Mechanicsburg.

# Keeping the 'War Between the States' Alive

By BILL PENNEVILL, Staff Writer



**WORDS** — Among members of the Round Table working on books about the conflict are, from left, Tom C. Davis, of Mechanicsburg; Edwin H. Olmstead, of Mt. Holly Springs; Richard J. Sommers, of Carlisle; and C. Craig Caba, of Camp Hill.

THE CIVIL WAR ENDED more than a century ago, but the skirmishes and battles still rage on for some 12 area history buffs.

They are the members of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table, who meet 10 months of the year at the Dutch Pantry Restaurant in Camp Hill to take a penetrating look at "The War Between the States."

The Round Table, which also sponsors four field trips each season, is "a group of individuals from all walks of life who have a common interest in the Civil War," according to Mrs. Jacquelynn Laptisky, immediate past president and the first woman to head the local group.

MRS. LAPITSKY, who joined the Round Table about five years ago "to keep my sanity — to keep my mind from shrinking as a result of two small children," literally lives between bits of Civil War history.

Her house on Indiana Ave. in Lemoyne is between where Ft. Couch and Ft. Washington were situated during the Civil War.

"The Harrisburg defense forts were hastily thrown up when the Confederates invaded Pennsylvania," explained Joseph M. Boslet, president.

Boslet, who said he has been interested in the Civil War since he was a teenager in Altoona, noted that the forts were included in one of this season's field trips, "The War Comes to Cumberland County." The group, in addition to having taken a field trip to Petersburg, Va., in October plans to visit Antietam and the Shenandoah Valley.

Although many of the meeting speakers are "outside professional historians," Mrs. Laptisky said a number of programs will feature talks by Round Table members.

"We have within our group enough people who can compete with the professionals," she said, noting that Boslet's specialty is battles and last year he spoke on the

Battle of Spotsylvania, a talk he said took five months of "steady work" to put together.

THIS SEASON'S member speakers' programs will include a student report on "Blockade Running" by Karl Brommer, 16, of Mechanicsburg, during the annual business meeting in June.

The meetings represent a "super balance" between all phases of the Civil War, Mrs. Laptisky said, noting topics range from strategy and regiments to politics and economy.

Interest in the Civil War still is strong, Boslet said, because it was a conflict "people can easily follow" and because it was a "personal conflict — relatives fought in it — and it was tight here."

Some members of the Round Table "had grandfathers who fought in the Civil War and they grew up hearing about it," he said. And relics of the war still are "readily available" and in some instances have "been passed down from the battle."

THE ROUND TABLE is in its 18th season, and Mrs. Laptisky said members range from a 13-year-old boy to a man in his mid-'s and include collectors, authors and world authorities on "champions of lost causes."

The latter category includes the retired newspaperman who insists the North won the war because of the exploits of the troops from Schuylkill County, who dug the tunnel and laid the charges during the mining of the Petersburg defenses.

There also are the "champions" of Gens. Daniel Sickles and Benjamin Franklin Butler, who sometimes is called "Spoons" Butler.

Sickles was wounded during the Battle of Gettysburg and had to have his leg amputated. He had the leg put in formaldehyde and carried it around with him during the remainder of the war, they said. It's now on display in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Butler, they explained, got his nickname because he supposedly stole the silver spoons from the house he occupied while heading the Northern Military Administration of New Orleans. Butler was so hated by the South that high-handed acts during his brief stay in the city that following his removal Southern

picture in the bottom of their... his... And, with all these spoons...

tiskay said it isn't unusual for members to engage in games of "can you top this?" or "Can I stump you?"

DURING A WEEKEND field trip several years ago, two members verbally sparred for two days over how Stonewall Jackson's body got from the place where he died to the place where he was buried. One word led to

another and the pair ended up with a small wager answer.

At the next meeting of the Round Table the lot up in front of the group, apologized for doubt winner's knowledge and with a grand flourish p bet in Confederate money — which turned out counterfeit.



**UNIFORM OF THE DAY** — Todd Bush, of Mechanicsburg, wearing uniform of the 79th Highlanders, shows James Brommer, of Mechanicsburg, vice president, and his son, K, belonging to Gen. S. W. Crawford, commander of a Pennsylvania reserve brigade at G

# A 1976 MEDIA BLITZ...



Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

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Nonprofit Organization

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Standard  
Bearer  
  
By Don  
Troiani



# HARRISBURG

Civil War Round Table *59th Campaign Year*



Union  
Standard  
Bearer  
  
By Don  
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WELCOME TO  
**HARRISBURG**  
**CWRT**

Our Story



**OUR NEW & IMPROVED WEBSITE ...**

# **THE HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**OUR FIRST FIELD TRIPS**



Saturday - July 18

THE HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
will hold its first field trip.

Get Aboard

An air conditioned, 41 passenger bus has been engaged to transport the group and will leave our usual meeting place - 2511 Duke Street Harrisburg, at 8:00 A.M. EDST, Saturday, July 18, 1959.

Send your check for  
\$5.25

The fee of \$5.25 per person includes noon luncheon at the Gettysburg Hotel and all transportation. You may bring a guest; the above fee applies to adults. The cost for a child (under 12) is only \$2.50. Reservations will be honored only if accompanied by payment of established fee to our secretary, Henry A. Estricher, 648 S. 26th Street, Harrisburg - CE 6-2304.

THE FEATURE

Dr. Tilberg, Chief Historian Gettysburg National Military Park will conduct the tour of the first day's Battle July 1, 1863.

**OUR FIRST FIELD TRIP  
WAS TO GETTYSBURG TO  
STUDY THE FIRST  
DAY OF THE BATTLE.  
GASOLINE WAS REALLY  
CHEAP IN 1959!**

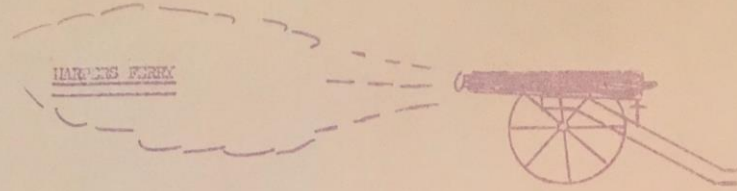


# WE ALSO VISITED UNION MILLS, MD, A FAVORITE MUSEUM OF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER:



**ANOTHER EARLY FIELD  
TRIP WAS TO  
HARPERS FERRY.**

***THE MORE IT  
CHANGES, THE MORE  
IT STAYS THE SAME....***



Harrisburg, Pa. J.M.F. --- FIELD TRIP ---

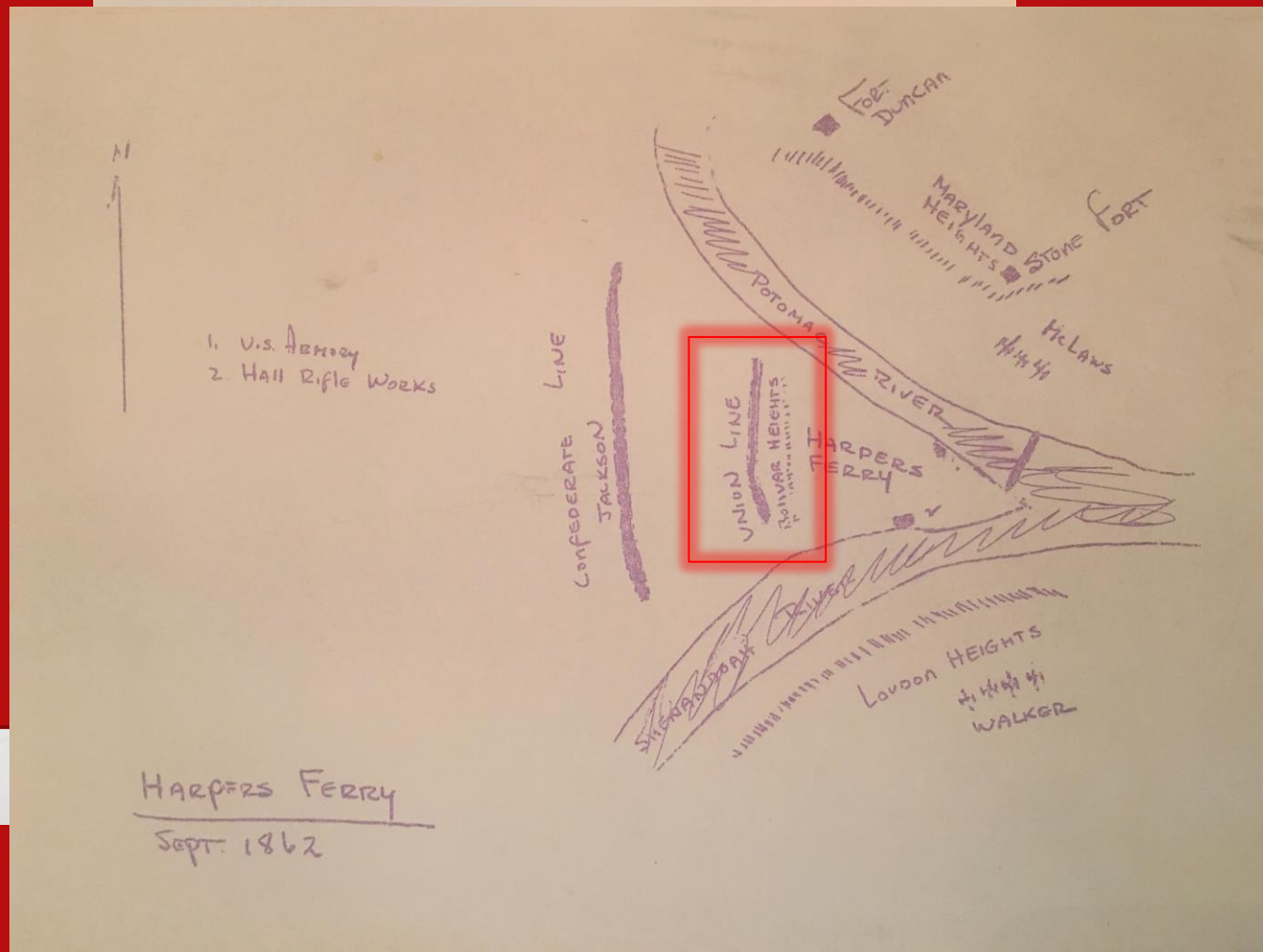
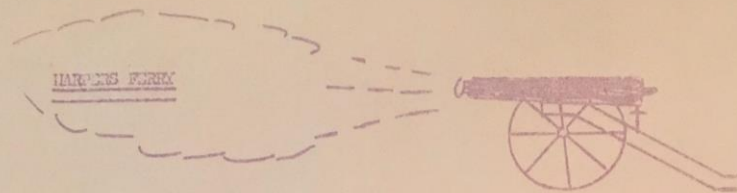
Date	Saturday - November 11
Departures	East Shore - 2511 Duke Street 8:15 A.M. West Shore - Camp Hill Shopping Center Parking Lot (near Howard Johnson Restaurant) 8:30 A.M.
Other	Transportation - \$1.50 per person Payable at time of departure Dations - Hill Top Hotel Harpers Ferry

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\_\_\_\_\_  
I WILL ATTEND FIELD TRIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
I CAN DRIVE MY CAR  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ANOTHER EARLY FIELD  
TRIP WAS TO  
HARPERS FERRY.**

***THE MORE IT  
CHANGES, THE MORE  
IT STAYS THE SAME....***





Bolivar Heights, Harpers Ferry – May 11, 2019

**... 60 Years later, still going strong**

# **THE HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**WORLD-CLASS SPEAKERS & HOME-GROWN AUTHORS**



**EMINENT CIVIL WAR  
HISTORIANS HAVE  
ALWAYS GLADLY  
SHARED THEIR  
EXPERTISE WITH OUR  
MEMBERSHIP ...**

4—The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, May 5, 1960



—Evening News Photo

**AT THE ROUNDTABLE**—Principles at the discussion of "Women in the Civil War" held at a meeting of the Harrisburg Civil War Roundtable at the State Museum, included, from left, Robert D. Hoffsommer, Dr. Robert L. Bloom, speaker, head of the History Department at Gettysburg College; Mrs. Bloom, and John J. Cobaugh, group president.

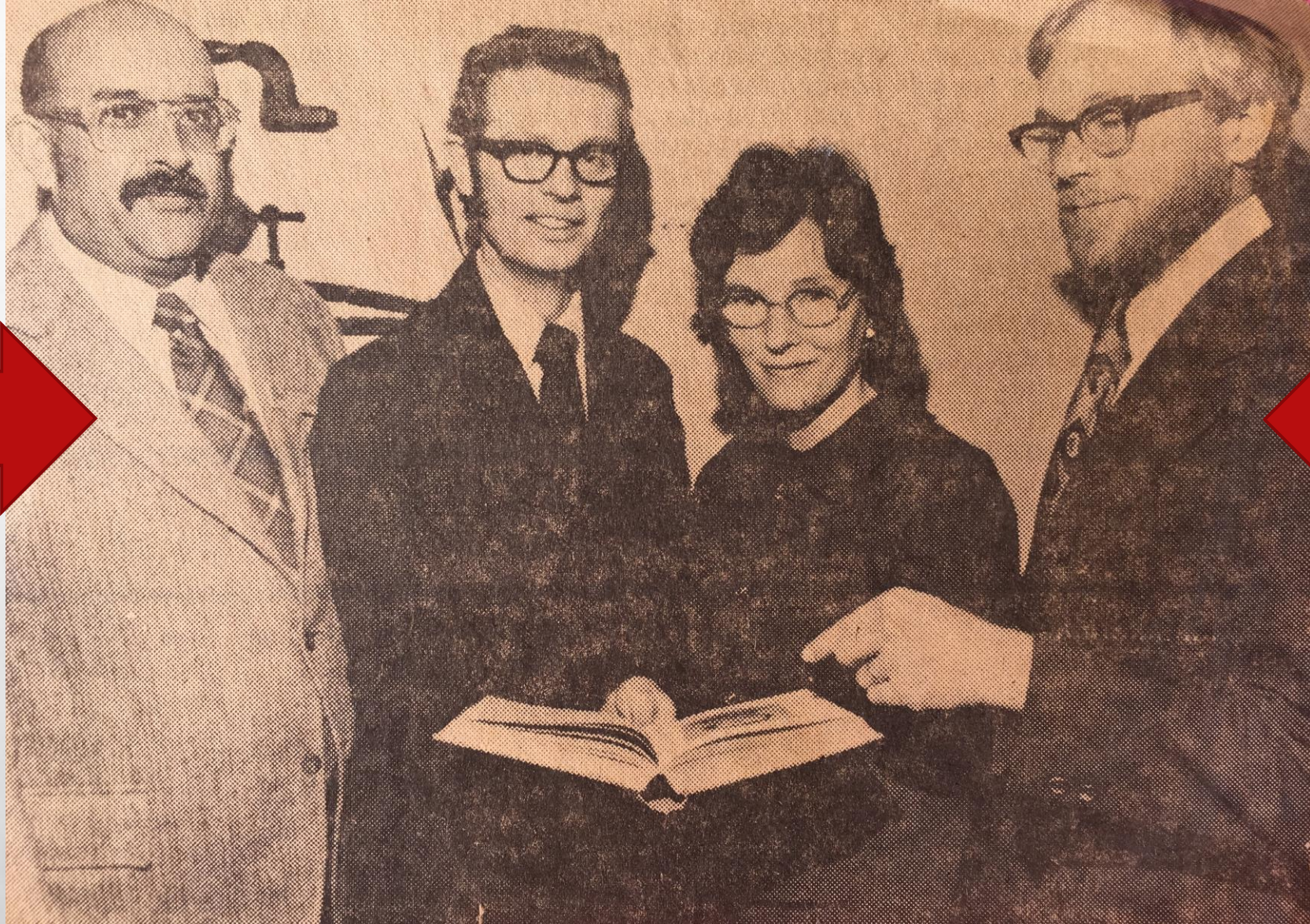


**Willis Kocher**

**Joe Boslet**

**FOLLOWING THE BATTLE** — Joseph M. Boslet, right, of Harrisburg, Round Table president, uses a war sequence map to explain Battle of Spotsylvania, to Dr. Joseph L. Harsh, left, history professor at George Mason University, Fairfax, Va., and Willis R. Kocher, of Mechanicsburg.

**Joe Boslet**



**Norm Daniels**





**Robert D. Myers**

**Ron Coleman**

**Norm Daniels**

### Round Table Relives "Stonewall In The Valley"

Author and attorney Robert G. Tanner spoke about Stonewall Jackson during the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table's meeting Friday at Schindler's Restaurant in Camp Hill. From left to right are Robert D. Myers, vice president; Tanner, President Norman L. Daniels, and Adjutant Ronald C. Coleman.

9-27-1980

# HCWRT ANNIVERSARY SPEAKERS . . .

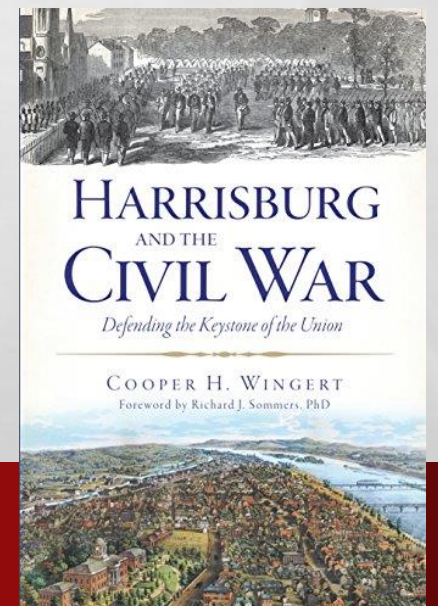
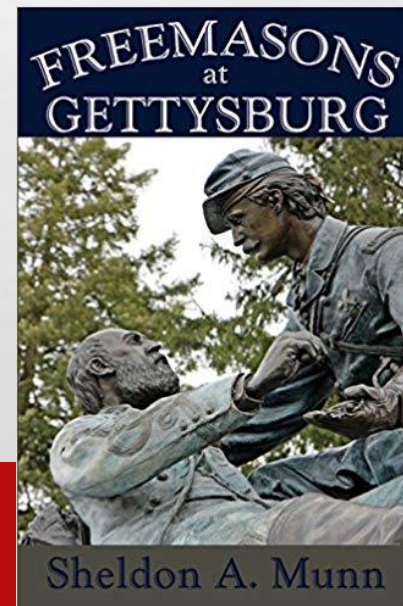
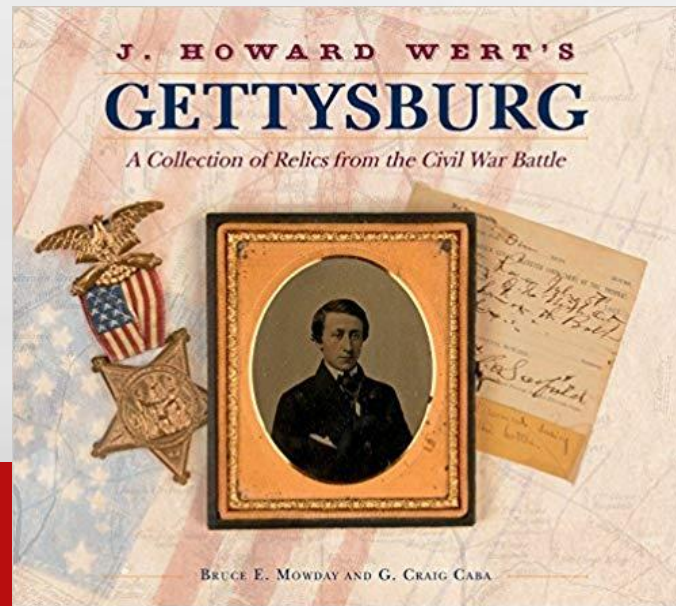
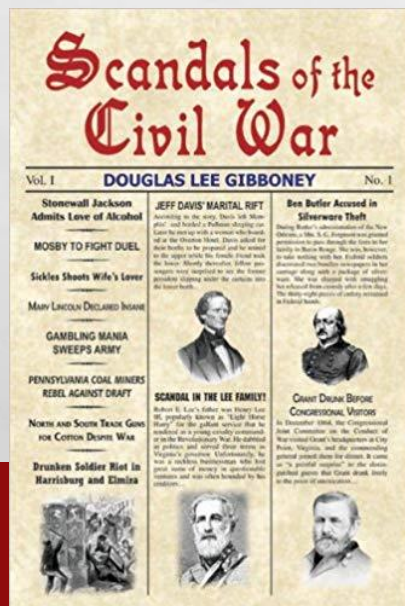
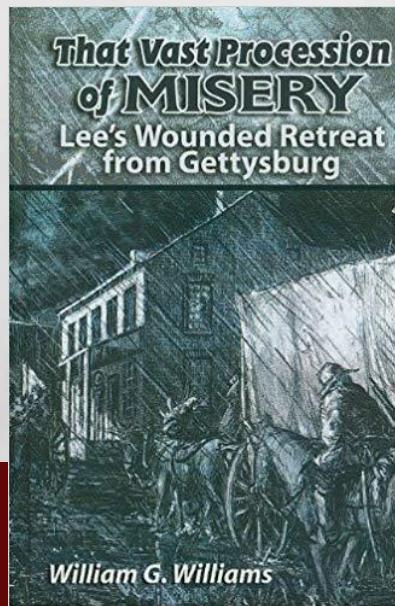
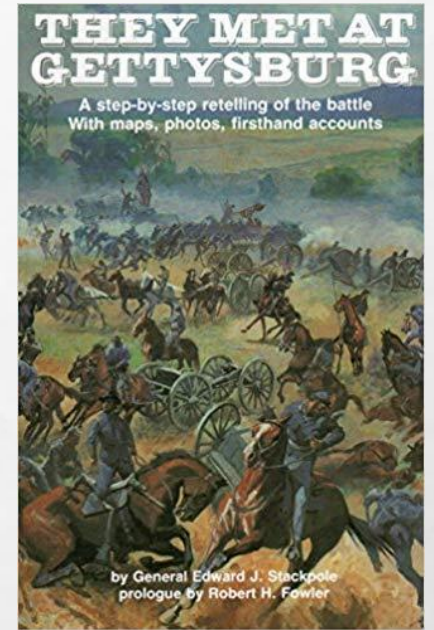
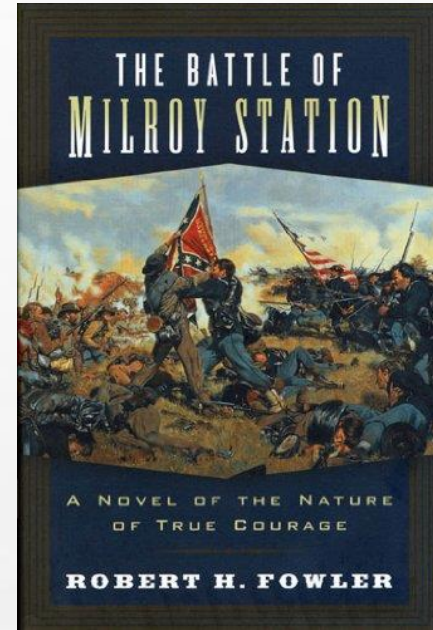
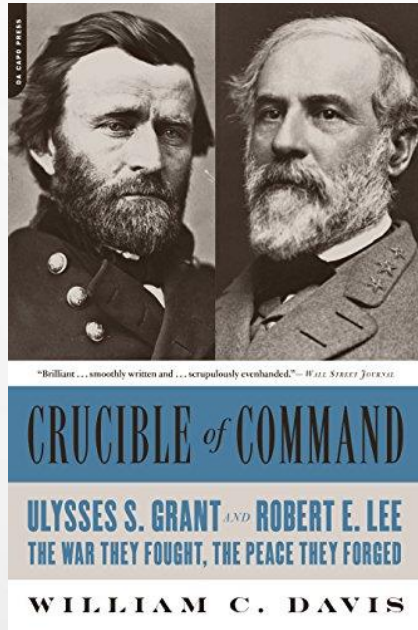
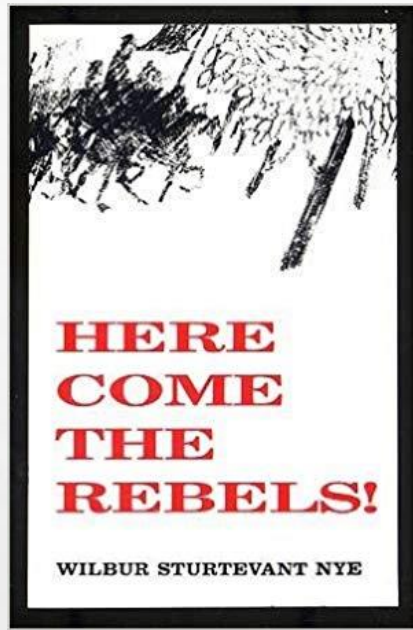
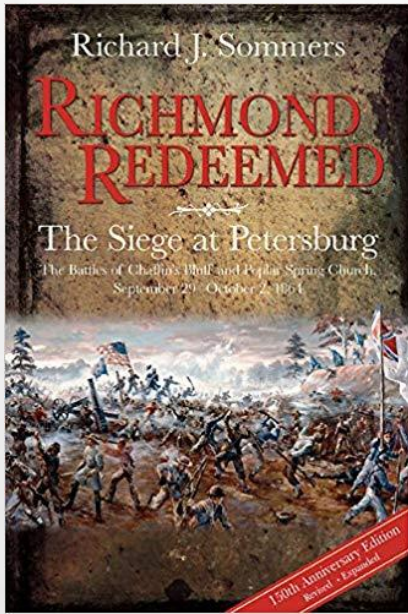
- **JAMES I. ROBERTSON, JR. – 25TH**
- **GRADY MCWHITNEY – 30TH**
- **RUSSELL F. WEIGLEY – 35TH**
- **CHARLES P. ROLAND – 40TH**
- **EDWIN C. BEARSS – 45TH**
- **JAMES M. MCPHERSON – 50TH**
- **WILLIAM C. DAVIS – 55<sup>TH</sup>**
- **PETER S. CARMICHAEL – 60<sup>TH</sup>**





**WAR OF WORDS** — Among members of the Round Table working on books about the conflict are, from left, William C. Davis, of Mechanicsburg; Edwin H. Olmstead, of Mt. Holly Springs; Richard J. Sommers, of Carlisle, and C. Craig Caba, of Camp Hill.

**THE HARRISBURG CWRT HAS INSPIRED A HOST OF HOME-GROWN CIVIL WAR AUTHORS, INCLUDING ...**



**DR. RICHARD J.  
SOMMERS INVITED  
VISITING SCHOLARS AT  
THE ARMY WAR COLLEGE  
TO ADDRESS OUR  
ROUND TABLE ...**



—Patriot Photo

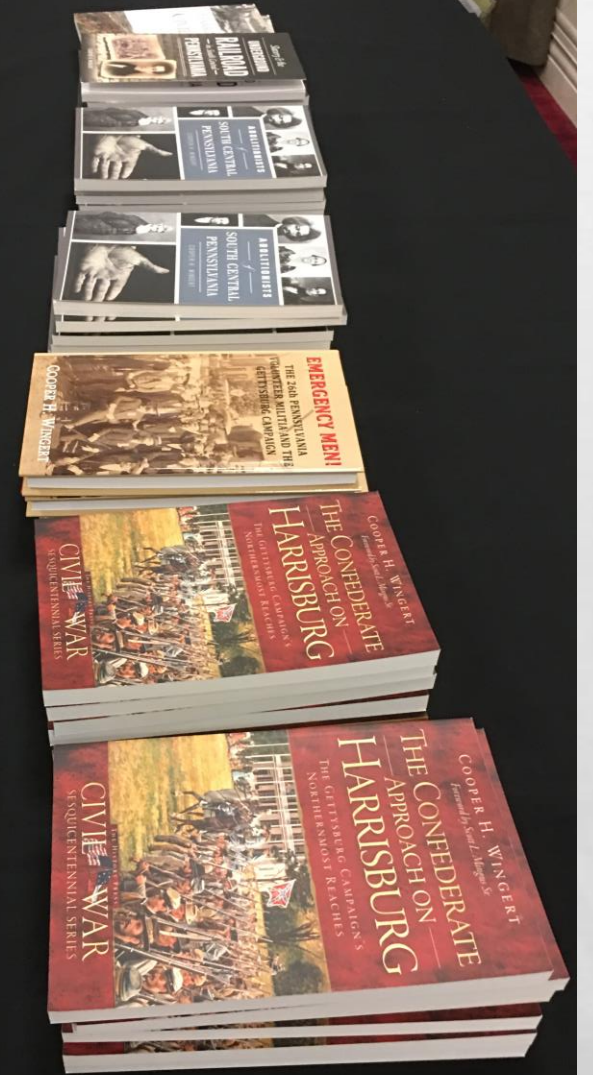
**Civil War Buffs Hear of Another MacArthur**

Dr. D. Clayton Jones, second from right, the Harold Keith Johnson visiting professor of military history at the Army War College, Carlisle, Friday discusses the 47-year military career of "The Boy Colonel — Arthur MacArthur," the father of World War II Gen. Douglas MacArthur, at a meeting of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table at Dutch Pantry Restaurant, Camp Hill. From left are Norman Daniels, round table vice president; Richard J. Sommers, program chairman; and Mrs. D. Clayton Jones.



**... AND HE  
ADDRESSED  
US ON NINE  
SEPARATE  
OCCASIONS,**

... INSPIRING  
OUR OWN  
COOPER  
WINGERT TO  
STEP UP TO  
THE PLATE ...



# **THE HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**THE "CONGENIAL MEDIUM" CONTINUES**







**“DINNER IS SERVED!”**





















# **THE HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**“THE SQUARE TABLE” – UNIQUE AMONG CWRTS**





**ROBERT J. TROUT**



**BRADLEY M. GOTTFRIED**



**GORDON C. RHEA**



**PETER S. CARMICHAEL**



**JENNIFER M. MURRAY**



# **THE HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**RECENT FIELD TRIPS – FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR FOREBEARS**



**I Survived**  
***LARRY'S MUD***  
***MARCH!***

**Harrisburg Civil War Round Tables**  
**Upper Shenandoah Valley Tour**  
**April 14th and 15th, 2007.**

***Some field trips are truly unforgettable!***



**SHENANDOAH VALLEY CAMPAIGN OF 1864 – FALL 2017**



**LEE'S RETREAT FROM GETTYSBURG – SPRING 2018**



**BATTLE OF MONOCACY & CIVIL WAR MEDICINE – FALL 2018**



**HARPERS FERRY – SPRING 2019**



**BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS -- FALL 2019**

***COMING SOON TO A THEATER NEAR YOU!***



**ANTIETAM SHADOWS – SPRING 2021**





***COMING SOON TO A THEATER NEAR YOU!***

**BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG – FALL 2021**