

Campaign 59
Skirmish 5
January 26, 2018

The Dispatch

Editor
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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

January 26, 2018 Speaker—Michael Jesberger

H. L. Hunley—the Saga and Loss

On Feb. 17, 1864, the Confederate sub *H. L. Hunley* left the Charleston, SC, harbor and sank a blockading Union warship. Soon after sending the USS *Housatonic* to the bottom, the submarine also sank.

The sunken sub's location was a mystery until 1995, when a team of divers sponsored by writer Clive Cussler discovered the nearly-intact *Hunley*. It was raised and carefully excavated. The skeletons of all eight crew members were removed, studied, and reburied.

Mr. Jesberger is an independent military historian who specializes in the American Revolution and Civil War time periods. He is renowned for his depth and breadth of knowledge, as well as his engaging and passionate presentation style, whether providing formal lectures, living history presentations or tours of historic sites.

A member of numerous history based organizations and active in the reenactment community, he participates in numerous battle reenactments, living history programs and ceremonies to honor our first and current veterans. A lifelong resident of the Philadelphia region, Mr. Jesberger is a native of Northeast Philadelphia and has relocated to Bucks and Montgomery County, PA, and currently resides in Lansdale, PA, with his wife, Amy; son, Erik; and two daughters, Erin and Emma.



DINNER IS SERVED!

Radisson Hotel
FRIDAY, January 26, 2018
Governor B—Hotel

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

Menu Options:

(A) Spinach Ravioli (B) Stuffed Chicken Florentine

The dinner also includes
Caesar Salad, Fresh Baked Rolls and Butter,
Lemon Meringue Pie, Coffee or Tea

Cost: \$22 per person.

**Dinner reservations must be made no later than 9 p.m.
Tuesday, January 23**

Phone Ellie K Feldhausen at 717-512-9250 or email at
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Executive Officers

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The President's Pen

It is hard to believe it is already January. For those of us with some gray hair it is even harder to believe that it is 2018. S. J. Montgomery lost his hearing at the second siege of Port Hudson in 1863. That was 151 years ago. Jonathan Grams was captured by Mosby January 1, 1864. That was 152 years ago. Those dates were important to me because they both were my great-grandfathers. Their lives have impacted mine. The Civil War ended 153 years ago. The events of that time have impacted all of us today whether we wish to acknowledge it or not. It is important that we learn all we can to understand our time and our country.

Help others to learn about those people, events and times. Bring a guest to the January Roundtable. They will love it and want to come back. Remember our trip in the spring. I pray the New Year is filled with God's blessing.

Jim Moss

Happy New Year, Civil War Warriors!

December Program

Edward Bonekemper III, who was to be our December speaker, passed away unexpectedly on December 9 at the age of 75.

An attorney by profession, Mr. Bonekemper authored *How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War* and six other books on the war. His final book, *The Ten Biggest Civil War Blunders* will be published this month. We extend our condolences to the Bonekemper family.

Mr. Bonekemper spoke to our Round Table in 2014. We appreciate his willingness to share his love of history with fellow Civil Warriors.

Special thanks go to our own Dr. Richard Sommers, who filled in at the December meeting on short notice. Dick gave an illuminating talk on *The Generalship of Robert E. Lee and the Civil War in the East*, which was a special preview of a chapter from his upcoming book, *Challenges of Command in the Civil War*.

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 59

1/26/18

Michael Jesburger, *The Hunley*

2/23/18

Robert J. Trout, *After Gettysburg: Cavalry Operations in the Eastern Theater, July 13 to December 31, 1863*

3/23/18

David Moore, *William S. Rosecrans and the Union Victory*

4/27/18

Scott Patchan, *Sheridan and the Final Battle of Winchester*

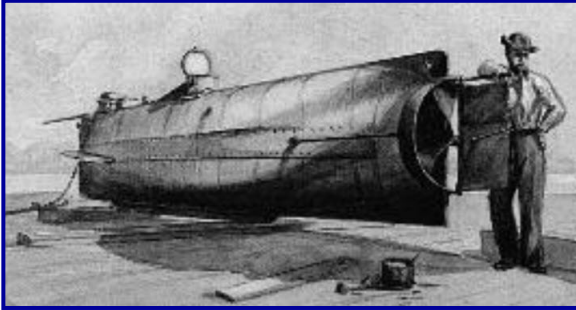
5/18/18—Nye-Sommers Lecture

Gordon Rhea, *Grant and Lee in the Overland Campaign*

6/22/18

Jim Moss, *Soldier Letters written to the Church Advocate*.
Annual Business Meeting

The Hunley



Mark Your Calendar for the Spring 2018 Field Trip—April 21 Lee's Retreat from Gettysburg

After General Robert E. Lee shattered his army during three days of bloody fighting in Gettysburg, his Confederate forces began a long and painful retreat through the mountains of Pennsylvania to the Potomac River, encumbered by endless wagonloads of wounded and supplies. Why didn't (or couldn't) Major General George G. Meade, flush with victory, attack what was left of the Army of Northern Virginia and finish it off? How could he let Lee slip away to fight another day?

If you have ever asked yourself these questions, you won't want to miss our spring field trip! We will trace the route of Lee's retreat, visiting wartime homes and properties affected by the Confederate army's march to and from Gettysburg. We shall also visit many battlefields along the route, including Monterey Pass, Hagerstown, Williamsport and Falling Waters. The finale of the tour is the crucial crossing site at Falling Waters. Most of the roads we'll be traveling are the same ones the soldiers took during the campaign.



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The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table
PO Box 124
Mechanicsburg, PA

January 2018

Gen. John W. Geary
Gettysburg NMP

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Where we discuss our past, emphasizing remembrance, education & preservation. **All Are Welcome!**
Meetings held (usually) the fourth Friday of the month at The Radisson Penn-Harris Hotel, Route 15, Camp Hill, PA
Online: www.HarrisburgCWRT.org



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Harrisburg Civil War Round Table Enlistment Form

Current Member Renewal

- Individual \$20
- Family \$30
- Full Time Student \$5

New Members Only

- Individual \$27 (includes badge)
- Family \$44 (includes two badges)
- Full Time Student \$7 (includes badge)

Individual or Family Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Contact Ellie K. Feldhausen, Membership Chair, PO Box 124, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

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