

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

September 22, 2017 Speaker—Noah Andre Trudeau

Lincoln's Greatest Journey: 16 Days That Changed the Presidency

Noah Andre Trudeau is a Civil War historian who has written articles for *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *Gettysburg Magazine*, *Blue and Gray*, *North & South*, *The Columbiad*, *America's Civil War*, and *Military History Quarterly*. He last spoke to our Round Table in April of 1999 on Appomattox. **We welcome him back!**

Mr. Trudeau is a former executive producer at National Public Radio and the author of several books, including *Gettysburg: A Testing of Courage*. He won the Civil War Round Table of New York's Fletcher Pratt Award for *Bloody Roads South: The Wilderness to Cold Harbor, May - June 1864* and he won the Grady McWhiney Research Foundation's Jerry Coffey Memorial Book Prize for *Like Men of War*.



As reviews have stated, *Lincoln's Greatest Journey* represents an important addition to the Lincoln saga. Thanks to his book, the conventional wisdom that there is nothing new to be learned about Lincoln is receiving a major reset.

March 1865: The United States was at a crossroads and, truth be told, Abraham Lincoln was a sick man. "I am very unwell," he confided to a close acquaintance. A vast and terrible civil war was winding down, leaving momentous questions for a war-weary president to address. A timely invitation from General U. S. Grant provided the impetus for an escape to City Point, Virginia, a journey from which Abraham Lincoln drew much more than he ever expected.

Previous coverage of this unprecedented trip—his longest break from the White House since he had taken office—has been sketchy at best, and often based on seriously flawed sources. *Lincoln's Greatest Journey* represents the most extensively researched and detailed story of these decisive sixteen days at City Point in a narrative laden with many heretofore unpublished accounts. The richly shaped prose, a hallmark of Trudeau's pen, rewrites much of the heretofore misunderstood story of what really happened to Lincoln during this time.

DINNER IS SERVED!

Radisson Hotel
FRIDAY, September 22, 2017
Governor B—Hotel

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

Menu Options:

(A) Garlic Rosemary Pork Loin (B) Mediterranean Tilapia

The dinner also includes

Mixed Green Salad, Fresh Baked Rolls and Butter,
Dessert, Coffee or Tea

Cost: \$22 per person.

**Dinner reservations must be made no later than 9 p.m.
Tuesday, September 19**

Phone Ellie K Feldhausen at 717-512-9250 or email at
hcwrt.membership@gmail.com

Executive Officers

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The President's Pen

Wowee!!!! Can you believe it is September already and time to think about our 59th campaign? Please put all 10 of the skirmishes on your personal calendar so you won't miss a single one. The speakers are great and the fellowship is phenomenal. There is also the chance to meet and get acquainted with some very special people. We don't want to be caught short-handed. So please don't go AWOL on us. Please remember to register in a timely fashion.

A special salute to our soldiers who have served faithfully and retired from those positions: Fred Gosart, President; Linda Meenaghan, Book Raffle Chair; Joe Boslet, Field Trip; Melissa Nelson, Dispatch; Bill Armstrong, Webmaster; and Ben Duke, Director. A special thanks to you all. The HCWRT only works well when a number of people work well together as a team.

We need some new recruits for our regiment. I hereby appoint every member to be an active recruiter to fill our quota. Please invite a friend.

Jim Moss, Sr.



Meeting Schedule—Campaign 59

9/22/17
Noah Andre Trudeau, *Lincoln's Greatest Journey: 16 Days That Changed the Presidency*

10/20/17
Paul Bretzger, *General Hancock on the First Day at Gettysburg*

11/17/17—**to be held at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg**
Susannah Ural, *Hood's Texas Brigade*

12/15/17
Edward Bonekemper, *The Myth of the Lost Cause*

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
TBD, Annual Business Meeting

Field Trip Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017
Shenandoah Valley—The 1864 Campaign

The Shenandoah Valley witnessed its most significant and bloody fighting in 1864. The Confederate high command used the Valley as an avenue of invasion, sending Lt. Gen. Jubal Early across the Potomac into Maryland and to the outskirts of Washington, DC. Early's invasion forced Gen. Grant to divert forces to the Federal capital. Although Early was forced to withdraw into the Valley, he remained aggressive, maintaining operations in the northern Valley and launching raids north of the Potomac.

Seeking to end the "Valley of Humiliation," Grant assigned Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan to command of the Shenandoah Valley, giving him three directives for the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign: defeat Early; destroy the Valley's resources; avoid defeat. Sheridan took his Army of the Shenandoah (approximately 40,000) to battle against Early's Army of the Valley (approximately 15,000) at Third Winchester on September 19. Early was outflanked and forced to retreat to Fisher's Hill. On September 22, Sheridan struck again, routing Early's army. These defeats laid the Valley open as Early retreated. Sheridan then carried out the second of Grant's directives and from September 25 to October 8 systematically destroyed the Valley's rich agricultural resources. Known as "The Burning," this devastation turned large sections of the Valley into a vast wasteland.

While Sheridan was conferring in Washington, Early was reinforced and ordered a surprise attack at Cedar Creek on October 19. His morning victory was short lived when Sheridan, riding hard from Winchester, rallied his shattered army and launched a counterattack in the afternoon, snatching "victory from the jaws of defeat."

Sights we will see: National Park Service Visitor Contact Station at Middletown, including an electric map overview program on Cedar Creek; Winchester battlefield, Fisher's Hill battlefield and Cedar Creek battlefield. If time allows, the Winchester National Cemetery and Mt. Hebron Cemetery.

Our Guide: Eric A. Campbell is a 22 year veteran of the National Park Service, and he is a friend of the Harrisburg CWRT. He worked at Gettysburg National Military Park as a ranger-historian, where he led a great 1996 field trip for us. Previously he worked at Independence NHP in Philadelphia. He is author of *A Grand Terrible Drama: From Gettysburg to Petersburg, the Civil War Letters of Charles Wellington Reed*, a Medal of Honor winning bugler of the 9th Massachusetts Battery, which was the subject of his talk to our Round Table in 2001.

Price: \$95.00 per person. Includes round-trip motor coach transportation from either Hummelstown Lower Dauphin High School (6:00 am departure) or Camp Hill Radisson Hotel (6:30 am departure), driver gratuity, lunch, admission fees and guide. On the return trip, we will stop for dinner, which is not included in the price.

To Register: Complete the form below and mail it with your deposit to Ricky Hollis, Hershey CWRT, PO Box 369 Palmyra, PA 17078. **Please make your check payable to: Harrisburg CWRT.**

Deposit: \$25.00 deposit holds your seat; balance due by October 4.

Cancellations: Received by October 4 will receive a full refund; after October 4, will receive a refund ONLY if the seat is filled by another person.

Questions: Ricky Hollis 717-805-7502, rickyhollissr@gmail.com OR Steve Smith, 717-433-0209, smith337@erau.edu.

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Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Number of Seats _____ Pick Up Point Lower Dauphin High School

Mail to Ricky Hollis Camp Hill Radisson

Hershey CWRT

PO Box 369

Palmyra, PA 17018

\$25 deposit enclosed



The Dispatch

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

September 2017

Gen. John W. Geary
Gettysburg NMP

The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

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.

Phone 717-512-9250, E-mail hcwrt.membership@gmail.com