

Campaign 60  
Skirmish 10  
June 7, 2019

# The Dispatch

Editor  
Tracy Sommers  
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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](http://www.HarrisburgCWRT.org)

## June 7—Jennifer Murray

### The Legacy of George Gordon Meade

Dr. Jennifer M. Murray is a military historian, with a specialization in the American Civil War, in the Department of History at Oklahoma State University. In addition to delivering hundreds of Civil War battlefield tours, Dr. Murray has led World War I and World War II study abroad trips to Europe. Her most recent publication is *On A Great Battlefield: The Making, Management, and Memory of Gettysburg National Military Park, 1933-2013*, published by the University of Tennessee Press in 2014. Dr. Murray is also the author of *The Civil War Begins*, published by the U.S. Army's Center of Military History in 2012. She is currently working on a full-length biography of George Gordon Meade, tentatively titled *Meade at War*. Dr. Murray is a veteran faculty member at Gettysburg College's Civil War Institute and a coveted speaker at Civil War symposiums and roundtables. In addition, she worked as a seasonal interpretive park ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park for nine summers (2002-2010).



Over 150 years following the end of the Civil War, General George Gordon Meade lies deep within the shadows of the Civil War. Once prominently defined as the "Hero of Gettysburg," Meade is now commonly obscured by the notoriety of Generals Grant and Sherman as well as Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. Together, we will explore the prominent place that Meade held among his contemporaries and succeeding generations and in doing so reassert "the Hero of Gettysburg" to his central, defining role in the Civil War and American memory.

#### DINNER IS SERVED!

FRIDAY, June 7  
Governor B—Hotel

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

#### Menu Options:

- (A) Beef Stroganoff over Egg Noodles
- (B) Grilled Salmon with Caramelized Pineapple Salsa

The dinner also includes

Mixed Salad, Tuscan Rolls and Butter,  
Vanilla Ice Cream with Chocolate Syrup  
Coffee, Tea

Cost: \$24 per person.

Dinner reservations must be made no later than 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 4

Phone Sam Waldrop at 717-422-3007 or email at  
[hcwrt.membership@gmail.com](mailto:hcwrt.membership@gmail.com)

#### Executive Officers

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[Meenaghan1961@comcast.net](mailto:Meenaghan1961@comcast.net)

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**Treasurer**, Norm Daniels  
[nld500@aol.com](mailto:nld500@aol.com)

**Secretary**, Ed Hicks  
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#### Web Links (CTRL + click)

[www.harrisburgCWRT.org](http://www.harrisburgCWRT.org)

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## *The President's Pen*

As this campaign year draws to a close, I am struck by how much we've accomplished since September. Recent events have reminded us of what our Round Table's original purpose was and what its future promise can be.

Our new and improved website at [www.harrisburgcwr.org](http://www.harrisburgcwr.org) is now up and running, and should be fully operational by the end of the summer. It will simplify certain tasks and help us reach a much wider audience. We just completed our most successful field trip in years, to Harpers Ferry, and half the seats for our fall field trip to The Wilderness have already been reserved (register soon!). Our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet reminded us of what our founding fathers set out to create in the spring of 1959: a "congenial medium" for discussion and learning about the Civil War. Dr. Peter Carmichael's animated and informative presentation on how the Civil War impacted the common soldier was very well received. My thanks to all who made that event such a success.

Looking ahead, our next meeting (which will also include our annual business meeting) is Friday, June 7 at the Radisson (Governor B). Dr. Jennifer Murray is coming all the way from Oklahoma to deliver another rousing and entertaining presentation on "The Legacy of George Gordon Meade." Please plan to attend, and bring along a guest. Our campaign year will conclude with our second board meeting of the year, Saturday, June 15 at 10:00 am at the Giant in Camp Hill. I look forward to seeing our officers and board members there, as we make plans to keep the flame our founding fathers lit 60 years ago this spring burning bright.

Linda Meeneghan

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## *In Memoriam*

Dr. Richard J. Sommers passed away May 14. He was a long-time and active member of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table, serving as the Program Chair for over 30 years, as President twice, many years on the Board, leader of field trips, and our featured speaker on nine separate occasions.

The loss of Dick just a few days before our anniversary celebration caused all of us to pause and reflect on the enormous contributions he made to our Round Table and to military historians and scholars worldwide. Let us take inspiration from his sterling example and rededicate ourselves to keeping the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table a vibrant and congenial forum for Civil War study and debate. That is what Dick would have wanted us to do.

Visitation is Friday, May 31 at 6:00 pm at the Hoffman Funeral Home in Carlisle, and Dick's memorial service is Saturday, June 1 at 11:00 at First Presbyterian Church on the square in Carlisle. I hope many of our members will attend.



## *Recommended Reading for Fall Field Trip*



*Hell Itself, The Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-7, 1864*  
Chris Mackowski

*The Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-6, 1864*  
Gordon C. Rhea

*The Wilderness Campaign*  
Gary W. Gallagher

*Fall Field Trip—Saturday, November 16, 2019*

*The Battle of the Wilderness—Spotsylvania County, Virginia*

On May 5-7, 1864, Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant and General Robert E. Lee clashed for the first time in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. This was the opening battle of Grant's sustained offensive against Lee known as the Overland Campaign; it was fought in an area of dense wooded undergrowth known locally as "the Wilderness." Grant attempted to move quickly through the dense underbrush to attack Lee's Army, but Lee intercepted Grant's forces, and furious, merciless fighting ensued resulting in almost 30,000 casualties. The battle was inconclusive, as Grant withdrew. However, he did not retreat as other generals before him had, instead promising Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to "fight it out on this line if it takes all summer long." Late on May 7, the Federals advanced south toward Spotsylvania Court House, where the bloody campaign would continue. This was a major turning point in the Civil War.

The Wilderness holds a place all of its own in Civil War lore. The "dark, close wood" seemed impenetrable and mysterious, as the armies slaughtered each other while the forest around them burned. We will visit all of the major sites of the battle, including Grant's headquarters, Saunders Field, Tapp Field, the Brock Road-Plank Road intersection, and the sites of the famous "Lee to the rear!" incident and Lt. General James Longstreet's wounding by his own troops, among others.

Our Guide, Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is the series editor of the award-winning "Emerging Civil War" series, published by Savas Beatie, and the "Engaging the Civil War" Series, published in partnership with Southern Illinois University Press. Dr. Mackowski is a writing professor and associate dean at the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY. He is also historian-in-residence at Stevens Ridge, a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield in central Virginia. He has worked as a historian for the National Park Service at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania), as well as at the building where Stonewall Jackson died. Dr. Mackowski has authored or co-authored a dozen books on the Civil War, and his articles have appeared in all the major Civil War magazines. He serves on the board of directors for the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and the national advisory board for the Civil War Chaplain's Museum in Lynchburg, Virginia. He is widely celebrated for his highly informative and inspirational presentations.

**Price:** \$95.00 per person. Includes round-trip motor coach transportation, driver and guide gratuities, lunch, and admission fees. Pick-up points are the parking lots of Hummelstown's Lower Dauphin High School (6:00 am) and the Camp Hill Radisson (6:30 am).

**To Register:** Complete the form below and mail it with your deposit to Norm Daniels, Harrisburg CWRT, 500 Bonneymead Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17111. **Please make your check payable to: HCWRT.**

**Deposit:** \$25.00 deposit holds your seat; balance due by October 16, 2019.

**Cancellations:** Received before October 16 will receive a full refund. After October 16 will receive a refund ONLY if the seat is filled by another person.

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

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*Spring Field Trip Registration Form*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Seats \_\_\_\_\_ Pick Up Point

Mail to Norm Daniels  
Harrisburg CWRT  
500 Bonneymead Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

- Lower Dauphin High School
- Camp Hill Radisson
- \$25.00 deposit per seat enclosed



## The Dispatch

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

June 2019

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](http://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 HCWRT, Membership Chair, PO Box 124, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Phone 717-422-3007, E-mail [hcwrt.membership@gmail.com](mailto:hcwrt.membership@gmail.com)