

Campaign 60
Skirmish 9
May 17, 2019

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

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 doctorate 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 attendees from across the country.

In his talk, Dr. Carmichael will explore how Civil War soldiers coped with combat 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 6:45 pm—Dinner
7:45 pm—Meeting 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
hcwrt.membership@gmail.com

Executive Officers

President, Linda Meenaghan
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Secretary, Ed Hicks
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Web Links (CTRL + click)

www.harrisburgCWRT.org

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Membership, Sam Waldrop

Newsletter, Tracy Sommers

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Program, Al Mackey

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The President's Pen

It's the 60th anniversary of our organization; we are celebrating that event this meeting. There will be pre-dinner hors d'oeuvres and Steve has been working on a special Power Point presentation of past people and events which made our round table last so long. I'm sure you won't want to miss it.

Our speaker, Dr. Peter Carmichael, is talking about the impact of the war on soldiers. In our study of battles we often forget the human toll the war took.

Our 60th Anniversary banquet affords us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the things that make our Round Table unique. I hope to see all of our members at this event. Come for dinner and enjoy the fellowship, the camaraderie, and the intellectual stimulation. Bring a friend!.

Linda Meenehan

A Visit to the Past



Recruiting poster for the first HCVWRT meeting.



First HCVWRT President, John Cobough presents a Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association coin to President Eisenhower in the mid 1960s after Ike retired to his farm in Gettysburg.



Always engaging and prominent speakers from outside as well as our own members.



Looooong time member—guess who!



Dinners and field trips—continue 60 years.

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 60

6/7/19 — *The Legacy of George G. Meade*
Dr. Jennifer Murray, Oklahoma State University

Reflections on Harrisburg Civil War Round Table History

By Stephen W. Smith, Vice President

In searching through the records on the history of the Harrisburg CWRT maintained by G. Craig Caba, one of our charter members, I discovered some eloquent thoughts on the history of our Round Table penned by Dr. Richard J. Sommers in May of 1974 on the occasion of our fifteenth anniversary, which took place during the first of two terms he served as our president. A better summary of what has enabled our Round Table to not only survive but thrive for six decades would be hard to find, so, with Dr. Sommers' permission, I would like to share some extracts from his thoughts with our members.

The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table was founded in 1959, on the eve of the Civil War centennial. Enthusiasm for the war ran high in those days, and the birth of a spate of Round Tables was but another aspect of a national phenomenon which included everything from the writing of scholarly tomes to the marketing of General Grant coloring books. Such mass interest, however, proved short lived. It peaked before the centennial ended and then rapidly subsided. Gone now are the hucksters selling their pseudo Civil War gimmicks. Gone, too, are the vast numbers of books on the war – some good, more bad – published in the late 1950's and early 1960's. This decline in interest has affected Round Tables, also. Some Round Tables have expired; others are moribund; and still others have ossified into closed cliques incapable of self-perpetuation.

Why have we succeeded where others have failed? To begin with, a determined inner cadre, including several charter members, kept the flame burning through the lean years, as well as fat. Neither the organization, nor the cadre, moreover, were restrictive. New members were constantly sought for the group, and as they displayed ability, they were welcomed into the leadership. This combination of persevering continuity and new talent has been one of our greatest strengths. Then, too, we have never yielded to the temptation to reduce the number of dinner meetings and field trips – an unending retreat that has led many another Round Table to destruction. We instead continued to provide a full schedule of interesting, qualified speakers and exciting visits to historic sites. Such events, in turn, attracted new members, who have joined throughout our history.

In drawing together such people, the Round Table provides a medium for exposing them to eminent scholars. It also represents a forum for discussion and a means for touring battlefields. Then, too, it affords the fellowship of shared interests. Laymen and professionals from many backgrounds all find common ground in their mutual interest in the Civil War. Such interest, such benefits, such vitality have been the strength of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table during our first fifteen years. They also offer every prospect of a bright future.

As we celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of our Round Table's founding, let us rededicate ourselves to our organization's fundamental purpose, as expressed in Article II of our constitution – *“to provide a congenial medium (for) persons having a common interest in ... the American Civil War”* – and to continuing to make our founders' vision a reality for decades to come.



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

May 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



Follow the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table on
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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