

Campaign 61
Skirmish 4
December 12, 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: harrisburgcwrt.org

Thursday, December 12—Greg Hillebrand The Civil War Soldier: In Camp and in Combat

Retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Gregory D. Hillebrand served as a space operations officer in a career that took him to places as diverse as Cape Canaveral, Florida; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Camp Victory, Iraq; Thule, Greenland; and the Pentagon. He finished his career as a Professor of Strategy at the US Army War College on Carlisle Barracks – taking that position, in large part, because they told him he could lead Staff Rides at historic sites as part of his job. After retiring, he followed his passion for history and served as a National Park Ranger at Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, and two seasons at Gettysburg National Battlefield. Now he serves as a military analyst and Professor back at the War College – and the most rewarding part of his job is still interpreting our shared history through leading Staff Rides at historic locations. Leading his first Staff Rides while working at the Pentagon, Professor Hillebrand has led over 70 all day events at Gettysburg and other historic sites. He also conducts historical interpretation through the living history group, “Detachment, US Engineers,” educating about the role of the combat engineer in the Civil War. Interested in just about every facet of the Civil War, he served as the technical photographer for the books *The Confederate Enfield*, and *Captured and Collected – Confederate Reissued Firearms*, both dealing with small import and inspection markings on Confederate rifles.



Fundamental to any true understanding of the Civil War, or any conflict, is understanding the most basic experience of the soldier. While combat is the defining experience of any soldier, for most Civil War Soldiers, combat was rare and brief. Most of the soldiers' time was spent on the mundane daily tasks of drilling, taking care of their equipment, and finding and preparing food. This presentation will examine these two extremes of soldiering: the intensity of combat and the drudgery of daily life. In a break from the more “academic” style of lecture, Professor Hillebrand will use uniforms, equipment, and weapons to physically represent the Civil War Soldiers' experience in camp and in combat. Audience participation is highly encouraged.

DINNER IS SERVED!

THURSDAY, December 12
Governor B—Hotel

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

Menu Options:

(A) Broiled Crab Cake

(B) Sugar Cured Ham

The dinner also includes

Fruit Cup, Tuscan Rolls and Butter

Dessert: Chef's Choice

Coffee, Tea

Cost: \$24 per person.

Dinner reservations must be made no later than 7 p.m.

MONDAY, December 9

Make reservations on the website at harrisburgcwrt.org

Please back up your reservation with a phone call to 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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harrisburgcwrt.org

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The President's Pen

The holidays are now upon us and everyone becomes very busy. I hope you will set aside some time during the rush to enjoy a relaxing evening with friends of the round table. The speaker this month is Greg Hillebrand, one of our own. He is a seasonal park ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park and his presentation on the combat experience will be interesting and informative. You will not want to miss it.

Speaking of Gettysburg, the annual winter lecture series begins January 11 and runs through March 22. These lectures are presented by the park rangers and historians on Saturdays and Sundays. The lectures begin at 1:30 pm, but you should arrive early as seating is limited. I encourage you to attend some of these free lectures that are paid for by your taxpayer dollars. The schedule is at: <https://www.nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/interpretation.htm>

Next month Kevin Levin will be speaking on black confederates. Anyone who has watched the American History lectures on C-Span3 knows this is a controversial topic.

PLEASE NOTE OUR DECEMBER MEETING IS ON THURSDAY NOT FRIDAY.

See you at the meeting!

Linda Meenaghan

Dick Sommers' Book Sale

A selection of books from Dick Sommers' significant military library will be sold by the Army Heritage Center Foundation in January. The Army has set aside Saturday, January 18, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, as a special day just for Harrisburg Civil War Round Table members and the Army Foundation staff to shop. The book sale will be open to the public Sunday, January 19. Each book has a bookplate created by the Army Heritage Center Foundation indicating it is from the library of Dr. Richard J. Sommers.

The USAHEC research collection has first choice of his books, but many will be available at the Foundation sale in the Foundation museum store. Dick's library included books written after the war by famous participants as well as more humble soldiers: first hand accounts, diaries, letters; regimental histories; Lincoln, Jefferson, Lee and Grant papers; Official Records; Civil War magazines; early and modern battle books, and more. The Union and Confederacy are equally represented.

Battle of the Wilderness Field Trip



Remember to make dinner reservations at the new website, harrisburgcwrt.org.

For a couple months, also let Sam Waldrop know your dinner selection.

Call: 717-422-3007 or email: hcwrt.membership@gmail.com

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 61

1/24/20

Searching for Black Confederates

Kevin Levin

2/28/20

Little Round Top: "Hold That Ground at All Hazards"

Joe Boslet, HCWRT Member

3/26/20 (Thursday)

Hinsonville's Heros

Cheryl Renee Gooch

4/24/20

Abraham Lincoln

Matt Pinsker

5/15/20—Nye-Sommers Lecture

R. E. Lee

Allen C. Guelzo

6/19/20

Cold Harbor

Bert Dunkerly

Spring Field Trip—Saturday, May 2, 2020
The Battle of the Antietam—Sharpsburg, Maryland

Please join the Harrisburg and Hershey Civil War Roundtables on Saturday, May 2, 2020 as we visit Sharpsburg, Maryland, the site of the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest single-day battle of the Civil War. On September 17, 1862, General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and Major General George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac faced off on the banks of Antietam Creek. Their armies suffered more than 23,000 casualties. The battle curtailed Lee's first invasion of the north, and laid the groundwork for Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which turned the war to save the Union into a war to set men free.

This field trip picks up where our highly successful field trip to Harpers Ferry in May 2019 left off. At the conclusion of that trip, our guide, Dennis Frye, made us an offer we couldn't refuse: to give us an encore performance at Antietam, a battle he knows like the back of his hand (he and his wife own and have restored Ambrose Burnside's post-Antietam headquarters south of Sharpsburg, where they now reside).

Dennis Frye is known for challenging convention and sparking provocation. This Antietam tour, based upon his book, *Antietam Shadows: Mystery, Myth & Machination*, is guaranteed to turn you upside down and inside out concerning your perceptions of Antietam. You may think you know Antietam, but you will see it differently after participating in Mr. Frye's dynamic tour.

OUR GUIDE: Dennis E. Frye recently retired as Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, serving in that position for 20 years and earning the Department of Interior's highest honor, the "Distinguished Service Award." Mr. Frye has authored 11 books and 104 articles. He is a nationally known preservationist, having served as a co-founder and past president of both the Civil War Trust and the Save Historic Antietam Foundation. He is a tour guide in demand, leading programs for the Smithsonian, National Geographic, *The New York Times*, and dozens of universities and Civil War organizations. Mr. Frye also has made frequent national television appearances, including on the History Channel, Discovery Channel, C-SPAN, A&E, Fox News and Voice of America, and he has helped produce Emmy Award-winning programs on John Brown and Antietam. He has addressed more than 150 Civil War Round Tables during his 40 years as a lecturer and battlefield guide.

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 (7:00 am) and the Camp Hill Radisson (7:30 am).

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

Deposit: \$25.00 deposit holds your seat; **balance due by April 2, 2020**

Cancellations: Received before April 2 will receive a full refund. After April 2 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 Lower Dauphin High School

Mail to Norm Daniels Camp Hill Radisson

Harrisburg CWRT

500 Bonnymead Avenue

Harrisburg, PA 17111

\$25.00 deposit per seat enclosed



The Dispatch

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

December 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: harrisburgcwr.org



Follow the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table on
Facebook and on [Twitter@HBRGCWRT](https://twitter.com/HBRGCWRT)



Harrisburg Civil War Round Table Enlistment Form

Current Member Renewal

- Individual \$24
- Family \$36
- Full Time Student \$5

New Members Only

- Individual \$34 (includes badge)
- Family \$56 (includes two badges)
- Full Time Student \$9 (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