

Campaign 61
Skirmish 6
February 28, 2020

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

Friday, February 28 — Joe Boslet

Little Round Top — Hold That Ground At All Hazards

Joe Boslet has been a student of the Gettysburg battle since his first trip at age 12. He has been a member of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table for nearly 46 years and is a past President in addition to various other positions and activities, including speaking and conducting battlefield walks with Dr. Richard Sommers. Mr. Boslet is currently a docent at the Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle.

Mr. Boslet served with MACV in Vietnam with Advisory Team 67 as a counterintelligence operative, actively involved in gathering intelligence for both combat units and the collateral Vietnamese Phoenix program. He is an engineering graduate of Penn State University and worked in consulting engineering and occupational safety and health. He has authored a number of professional publications including textbook work with the Insurance Institute of America.

He uses his own combat experience in Vietnam to analyze the battle at Little Round Top, considering terrain and the impact on troop movement, positioning and battle activity. Few authors of the battle have attempted to factor in decision making by Strong Vincent and other commanders from both sides which affected and influenced the battle. Mr. Boslet takes an historiographic approach in discussing the reasoning for actions on the battlefield, the relative importance of Little Round Top in context with other action, and presents new material for your consideration.



DINNER IS SERVED!

Friday, February 28
Keystone D&E—Hotel

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

Menu Options:

(A) Grilled Salmon with Citrus Ginger Butter
(B) Roast Top Sirloin

The dinner also includes

Caesar Salad, Tuscan Rolls and Butter
Dessert: Cherry Pie
Coffee, Tea

Cost: \$24 per person.

**Dinner reservations must be made no later than 7 p.m.
Tuesday, February 25**

Make reservations on the website at harrisburgcwrt.org/events/

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
Meenaghan1961@comcast.net

Vice President, Steve Smith
smith337@erau.edu

Treasurer, Norm Daniels
nld500@aol.com

Secretary, Ed Hicks
secretary@harrisburgcwrt.org

Web Links (CTRL + click)

harrisburgcwrt.org

Register For:
MEMBERSHIP
harrisburgcwrt.org/membership/

FIELD TRIPS
harrisburgcwrt.org/events/

Directors

Bruce Appar
Joe Boslet
Rick Eiserman
Greg Hillebrand

Standing Committees

Audit, Kim Ledger
Communications/PR, Todd Little
Field Trip, Steve Smith
Membership, Sam Waldrop
Newsletter, Tracy Sommers
Nominating, Jim Moss
Preservation, Curtis Wolf
Program, Al Mackey
Webmaster, John West

The President's Pen

Last month we were treated to a wonderful lecture about the persistent myth of black confederate soldiers. The topic invoked a lively question and answer period followed by a vigorous discussion at the square table. This month, our own Joe Boslet will talk about Little Round Top.

The Spring Field Trip to Antietam is almost full but there is room on the waiting list. There are always a few cancellations so if you want to participate, you will need to get your reservation in.

We have a few key positions on the board that need to be filled next year—Vice President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Directors. In addition we will need a Preservation Chairman. Please consider serving in one of these vital positions. If you are interested please let me, Steve Smith, Ed Hicks, or Jim Moss know. The round table does not run itself but needs many volunteers to keep it going.

See you at the next meeting. Encourage your friends and neighbors to attend.

Linda Meeneghan

Upcoming Events of Interest

- ◆ **From Gettysburg to Little Big Horn:
The General Armstrong Custer, Civil War and Indian War
2020 Symposium**
March 28—National Civil War Museum—8:45 am—5:00 pm
For more information and registration:
<https://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/events/>

- ◆ **Winter Lecture Series at Gettysburg Visitors Center**
1:30 every Sat. and Sun—plan to get arrive no later than 12:30
 - ◇ 2/15—These Honored Dead: WWII Burials at Gettysburg
 - ◇ 2/16—What You Don't Know Can Hurt You
 - ◇ 2/22—If These Things Could Talk: Treasurers from the Collection
 - ◇ 2/23—Memories of Battle: Union Veterans Remember Culp's Hill
 - ◇ 2/29—Beyond Lincoln: Addressing the Changing Meaning of the CW
 - ◇ 3/1—The Messy Business of War
 - ◇ 3/7—The Flying Dutchmen: The 11th Corps on July 1For more information:
<https://www.nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/interpretation.htm>



At the Dick Sommers book sale held on a snowy January 18 for Harrisburg Civil War Round Table members.

Recognize the shoppers ?



Remember to make dinner reservations at the new website, harrisburgcwr.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

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 Update

The Harrisburg and Hershey Civil War Round Tables will team up again on Saturday, May 2, 2020 for a field trip to Sharpsburg, Maryland. Back by popular demand will be our tour guide from our spring 2019 field trip to Harpers Ferry, Dennis E. Frye, whose book, *Antietam Shadows: Mystery, Myth & Machination*, will be the basis for a tour of the Antietam battlefield designed to challenge our preconceptions of what took place there on September 17, 1862. The cost of the trip is \$95.00, which includes round trip motor coach transportation, driver gratuity, lunch, guide honoraria, and admission fees.

As this edition of *The Dispatch* went to press, we only had one seat left on the bus, but that should not discourage anyone who is interested in participating in the trip from registering for it. Our Treasurer, Norm Daniels, maintains a waiting list based on the order in which he receives registrations, and as prior registrants drop out for one reason or another, those on the waiting list get to take their seats. On our last two field trips, everyone on the waiting list eventually got to go on the trip.

A flyer describing the trip and containing the registration form is located in the Events section of our website: <https://harrisburgcwr.org/events/spring-field-trip-2020-battle-of-antietam/>. If you would like to join us on the trip to Antietam, simply print out the flyer, fill in the registration form at the bottom, and mail it to Norm Daniels along with a check for \$25.00 to reserve your seat.

For those who have already signed up, a check for the \$70.00 balance due for the trip should be mailed to Norm Daniels not later than April 2, 2020.

Thanks to all who support our field trip program!

Steve Smith, Field Trip Program Chair

Long time Harrisburg Civil War Round Table member—and this month's speaker— has compiled a list of books every buff should own/read.

The 25 Books in Basic Civil War Library

Members have always been interested in this subject. It has been talked about often and it may be time again to get this out in front of everyone for further conversation. The last time we did this was, well, too long ago so strap yourselves in. In a Gettysburg-centric area, it was tough to assemble the listing without having any books on Gettysburg – that might be another list for future issues – even though I have Coddington's book but that is for a particular reason. And there are no specific battle books except Dr. Sommers and that was for it being a prime example of sheer scholarship. We would appreciate your comments and look forward to informed discussions. The listing is in no particular order (that would be madness) so enjoy:

Battles and Leaders of the Civil War including Volume 5 and 6 edited by Peter Cozzens
The Image of War: 1861-1865, 6 Vols, The National Historical Society
The Gettysburg Campaign, Ed. Coddington (inclusion for model campaign study)
Lee's Lieutenants, 3 Vols, Doug. Freeman
The Civil War Dictionary, Mark Boatner III
The Civil War: A Narrative, 3 Vols, Shelby Foote
West Point Atlas of the Civil War
Richmond Redeemed, Dr. Richard Sommers (inclusion for model of sheer scholarship)
Numbers and Losses in the Civil War in America 1861-1865, Thomas Livermore
Mary Chesnut's Civil War, Mary Chesnut
The Annals/New Annals of the Civil War, 2 Vols
The Civil War Day by Day, E.B. and Barbara Long
Battle Tactics of the Civil War, Paddy Griffith
The Civil War, 4 Vols, The Library of America
The Bloody Crucible of Courage, Brent Nosworthy
The Art of War, Baron De Jomini
Generals in Blue/Gray, Ezra Warner
Campaigns of the Civil War, 14 Volumes incl Supplement (Gettysburg to Rapidan) Scribners
A Compendium of the War of Rebellion, 2 Vols, Frederick Dyer
Uniforms, Weapons, and Equipment of the Civil War, David Miller OR Arms and Equipment of the Civil War, Jack Coggins
American Heritage Picture History of The Civil War, Bruce Catton
Civil War Art of Mort Kunstler
Crucible of Command, William C. (Jack) Davis

For the truly ambitious,

War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 128 Vols
Southern Historical Society Papers, 52 Vols plus 3 Index Vols.



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

February 2020

Gen. John W. Geary
Gettysburg NMP

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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