

Campaign 61  
Skirmish 7  
March 26, 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: [harrisburgcwr.org](http://harrisburgcwr.org)

## THURSDAY, March 26 — Dr. Cheryl Renée Gooch

### Hinsonville's Heroes, Agents of Emancipation and Civil Rights

Note meeting is  
Thursday

Dr. Cheryl Renée Gooch is an academic leader, published scholar and active historical researcher. Since its release, *Hinsonville's Heroes* has maintained active interest among diverse audiences, including the National Park Service Fort Stevens Day; and numerous Civil War Round Table groups, including Baltimore Civil War Round Table; Old Baldy Philadelphia Civil War Round Table; and Eastern Pennsylvania Civil War Round Table; Grand Army of the Republic Museum; National Civil War Museum; Camp William Penn Museum; and Delaware History Museum.

Dr. Gooch has been a featured author on PCN (Pennsylvania Cable Network)-TV's *PA Books*.

Dr. Gooch will discuss her book, *Hinsonville's Heroes: Black Civil War Soldiers of Chester County, Pennsylvania* (The History Press, February 2018) which traces the stories of 18 residents of Hinsonville, a free black community in southeast Pennsylvania, who fought for the Union. The 19<sup>th</sup> century village of Hinsonville attracted both free and determined to be free people who championed religious freedom, higher education, land ownership and equal rights.



#### DINNER IS SERVED!

**THURSDAY, March 26**  
Governor B—Hotel

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

#### Menu Options:

(A) Spinach Ravioli with Light White Wine Sauce  
(B) Chicken Palermo

The dinner also includes  
Fruit Cup, Tuscan Rolls and Butter  
Dessert: Lemon Meringue Pie  
Coffee, Tea

Cost: \$24 per person.

**Dinner reservations must be made no later than 7 p.m.**  
**MONDAY, March 23**

Make reservations on the website at [harrisburgcwr.org/events/](http://harrisburgcwr.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](mailto: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@harrisburgcwr.org

**Web Links** (CTRL + click)  
[harrisburgcwr.org](http://harrisburgcwr.org)

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## *The President's Pen*

We've almost made it through winter with minimal snow. Let's hope this trend continues so that there is nothing to interfere with the March meeting. Please make careful note that the March meeting will be on a Thursday, not on Friday.

There are many free activities that you can take advantage of if you are looking for something to do over the winter months. The National Civil War Museum has a monthly lecture—check their website for a listing. Gettysburg National Military Park has its annual winter lecture series until March 28<sup>th</sup>. The topics appear below and are also listed on their website.

Looking ahead, I want to encourage our members to consider serving on the board next year. The board is essential to the running of the round table. Positions we need to fill include Vice-President, Secretary, Membership Chair and Directors. Let me, Steve Smith, Jim Moss, or Ed Hicks know of your willingness to serve.

See you at the March meeting! Bring along a neighbor or a friend.

Linda Meenaghan

### *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
  - ◇ 3/1-The Messy Business of War
  - ◇ 3/7-The Flying Dutchmen: The 11th Corps on July 1
  - ◇ 3/8-Searching for the Exact Location of America's Soul
  - ◇ 3/14-Earl Van Dorn: The Life and Death of a Confederate Cavalier
  - ◇ 3/15-Soldier in Training: James Longstreet and the Mexican War
  - ◇ 3/21-Scouting the Union Right: Lee and Culp's Hill, July 1-2
  - ◇ 3/22-Personal Turning Points: Jefferson Davis & George Thomas
  - ◇ 3/28-Pray for Oblivion to His Memory; F. Douglass on Gen. Lee

For more information:

<https://www.nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/interpretation.htm>

### *Spring Field Trip Update*

As this edition of *The Dispatch* went to press, all 56 seats on the bus were filled.

Don't be discouraged though; anyone who is interested in participating on the trip may still register 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/>



Remember to make dinner reservations at the new website, [harrisburgcwr.org](http://harrisburgcwr.org).

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

Call: 717-422-3007 or email: [hcwr.membership@gmail.com](mailto:hcwr.membership@gmail.com)

### *Meeting Schedule—Campaign 61*

**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

## *Thoughts on the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table*

While going through Dick Sommers papers, the editor ran across a flyer written by Dick for the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table Fifteenth Anniversary Program on May 17, 1974. As you read this, think about how you can volunteer to keep our Round Table vibrant.

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.

Our Round Table has escaped this fate that has overtaken so many others. After a slight decline in the late 1960's we have revived these past 3 years to the extent that we are now stronger, more vital, more active than at any period in our history. Why have we succeeded where others have failed? To begin with, a determined inner cadre, including several charter members, kept the flame burning through 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 other Round Tables to eventual destruction. We instead continued to provide a full schedule of interesting, qualified speakers and exciting visits to historic sites. Such events, in turn, attract new members, who have joined throughout our history—in ever increasing numbers these past three years. That more and more members mustered in derives from the obvious truth: Interest in a given historical event exists independently of any arbitrary lapse of time since that event. The study of Napoleon, after all, did not cease one hundred years after Waterloo, and there is no reason that interest in the Civil War should have ended a century after the collapse of the Confederacy. The interest in the war is still there, and we have continued to tap it.

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.

In the 46 years since Dick composed these thoughts, the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table has continued to attract superb speakers and to sponsor exciting field trips; however, membership has declined. We need to attract new members willing to devote time and energy to keeping the organization vital and our nation's history alive.



## The Dispatch

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

March 2020

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](http://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](mailto:hcwrt.membership@gmail.com)