

Campaign 61
Skirmish 8
April 24, 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

Friday, April 24 — Meeting Cancelled

Due to the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Wolf issued “stay-at-home” orders on April 1 to all Pennsylvanians to be in effect until April 30. We do not yet know if this will be extended to May. Although we are not able to meet, there are many sources, electronic and paper, we can enjoy in the interim.

Below is a representative list of blogs, videos and webinars that may be of interest to you. If you have a favorite not listed here, please let the newsletter editor know so it can be included in an upcoming issue.

BLOGS:

- <https://studycivilwar.wordpress.com/> Our own Al Mackey's blog, see his article on page 2
<https://emergingcivilwar.com/> Diverse authors sharing original scholarship related to the Civil War
http://www.civilwarcenter.olemiss.edu/Research_blogs.shtml A listing of several Civil War blogs

VIDEOS:

- <https://ahc.armywarcollege.edu/lectures.cfm> USAHEC military history lectures going back to 2006
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChZS4t8cZN2L2qPEIzBdwA/videos> National Civil War Museum
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-2qq8mcZXIdOrcg4ER8qjw> USAHEC military history videos (click on Videos)

Here are some of the US Army Heritage and Education military history videos recommended by Steve Smith:

“Broken Lives and Shattered Bones: Discovering a Field Hospital at Manassas Battlefield.” Manassas Superintendent Brandon Bies, a military archeologist by training, gave a riveting presentation last October on some recent discoveries at Manassas. His lecture will run chills up your spine. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ns37OYKe8pQ>

“Gettysburg’s Peach Orchard.” Licensed Battlefield Guide James A. Hessler discussed his book on the fight for the “commanding ground” along the Emmitsburg Road. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLCjqB76Fkw>

“Rising in Flames: Sherman’s March and the Fight for a New Nation.” Last May, New York Times best-selling author J.D. Dickey provided a fresh perspective on this much-maligned march from Atlanta to Savannah in 1864. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6W6iUC9zBWM>

“Lincoln’s Gamble: The Tumultuous Six Months that Gave America the Emancipation Proclamation and Changed the Course of the Civil War.” In 2015, on the 150th anniversary of Lincoln’s death, journalist and popular historian Todd Brewster provided a gripping account of a critical period in the Civil War. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFYBSkRfxO0&list=PLTmfUSLEYW5KA9bJws9DX-xXaxIBPEwW8&index=38&t=0s>

“The Confederate Approach on Harrisburg.” In 2015, when he was still in high school, boy wonder Cooper H. Wingert addressed a much older audience on the local history of the Gettysburg campaign. Astonishing! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5OqEWDn_6k

“Richmond Redeemed: The Enduring Lessons of Leadership from the Siege of Petersburg.” Our own Dr. Richard J. Sommers lectured on his magnum opus in 2014. This will remind you of all the fine qualities Dick brought to what he so lovingly referred to as “our Round Table.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aTelwxsTMw&list=PLTmfUSLEYW5KA9bJws9DX-xXaxIBPEwW8&index=40&t=0s>

“To Antietam Creek: the Maryland Campaign of 1862.” Our Antietam field trip may have had to be postponed, but D. Scott Hartwig can take you there vicariously in this 2014 lecture to a packed house. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AmfTm0uQFM&list=PLTmfUSLEYW5KA9bJws9DX-xXaxIBPEwW8&index=41&t=0s>

MISCELLANEOUS:

- <https://www.armyheritage.org/news-and-events> Army Heritage Center Foundation links under “Resources” to videos of War College lectures; to primary sources, military history vignettes and other YouTube videos of lectures
www.CWRTCongress.org/lectures.html Registration for Civil War Round Table Congress lecture series.

The President's Pen

I hope that all of you are well during this trying time. It was a hard decision to cancel last month's meeting but I know it was the right one. Given the fact that the entire state of Pennsylvania is now under stay at home orders, it became necessary to cancel April's meeting as well. First, I owe a debt of gratitude to Steve Smith who took the initiative to ensure the cancellations were properly coordinated. This was no easy task. I also want to thank Al Mackey who has contacted the speakers about the cancellations. A third shout out to John West, Bruce Apgar, and Todd Little who have made needed changes to the website and social media. A final thank you to the Radisson for allowing us to cancel without penalty. They have truly been gracious to us during this trying time.

Please be sure to read Steve Smith's article about the spring field trip cancellation in this newsletter.

If we need to cancel May's meeting, we will let you know in the newsletter, on the website, and on our Facebook page.

Finally, we need volunteers for the following positions: Vice President, Secretary, Membership, and Directors. Please contact me, Steve Smith, Ed Hicks, Jim Moss, or any of the other board members if you are willing to serve; our round table needs to fill these positions in order to continue to function during Campaign 62 and beyond. While confronting the unprecedented challenges brought about by the COVID-19 crisis, now more than ever, we need "all hands on deck."

Hoping to see you again soon.

Linda Meenaghan

Blogging to the Sound of the Guns

by Al Mackey

I was a fan of Civil War blogs. I was a devoted reader of Professor Mark Grimsley's "Blogging Them Out of the Stone Age" and Kevin Levin's "Civil War Memory." When BTOOTSA went defunct, Mark replaced it with a group blog, "Civil Warriors," with himself, Professor Brooks Simpson, and Professor Ethan Rafuse providing the posts. That blog also went by the wayside and Brooks kept blogging at "Crossroads." I followed all the posts at all those blogs, looking at each on a daily basis.

Eventually I began to wonder if I could produce a blog of my own. I felt I had some things to say, but I was apprehensive that I would run out of things to say and any blog of mine would also go defunct the way others had. I had participated in a huge amount of online discussions and as a result had done a great deal of research to back up my posts. One motivation I had was to have a repository for that research instead of having to look in several different places.

Then in June of 2012 the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College's summer symposium had a program on blogging, featuring Brooks Simpson, Kevin Levin, and another historian whose blog I followed, Keith Harris, then posting on a blog called "Cosmic America." That panel discussion, which you can watch on C-SPAN here [<https://www.c-span.org/video/?70480-1/civil-war-blogging>], gave me the motivation to take the plunge. I published my first blog post on June 30, 2012, and I'm approaching 3,000 posts.

My blog is called "Student of the American Civil War." I chose that title because I don't consider myself to be a historian but rather a student who is studying the war. The fact that I've been studying it for 43 years doesn't change that label, and I don't like the term "buff." I've geared it primarily toward people who also want to learn more about the Civil War, but I also comment on current issues relating to the war such as monuments and flags. I do my best to have fresh material posted on the blog on a regular basis, so if you check in on it on a daily basis you should get some new material either that day or the next day. I share videos, book reviews, results of research, and reports on conferences I attend in addition to commentary on current issues. I hope I can teach someone about the war each day. If you're interested in checking out my blog, you can find it at <https://studycivilwar.wordpress.com/>

We'll Meet Again, Don't Know Where, Don't Know When . . .

Spring Field Trip To Antietam Postponed

by Steve Smith

Given the rapid evolution of the COVID-19 crisis over the last month, concern over the safety and health of our members and their families, and the stay-at-home orders imposed by the governors of Pennsylvania and Maryland, we had no choice but to cancel the Antietam Shadows spring field trip that was scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 2.

We did this reluctantly, as there was enormous enthusiasm among our members for this trip. We filled the bus in record time (a testament to tour guide Dennis Frye's past performance) and no one had dropped out, but, in the final analysis, there is no way to practice effective "social distancing" on a packed bus.

Our treasurer, Norm Daniels, sent out checks refunding whatever he had received from those who had signed up for the trip. You should have received yours by now.

Dennis Frye has indicated he fully understands why we had to cancel, and we will attempt to reschedule the trip once this crisis is resolved. When we do reschedule it, those who signed up for this spring's trip will be given first dibs on registration for the rescheduled trip.

No decision has been made yet on whether to follow through with our fall 2020 field trip to Fredericksburg with Chris Mackowski, which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 24. If the crisis abates before then and we decide to go through with the trip, we will give those who have already participated in our past field trips the first chance to sign up.

Our field trip program *"shall rise again!"*





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

April 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



Follow the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table on
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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: Norm Daniels, Treasurer, 500 Bonneymeade Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17111

E-mail: hcvrt.membership@gmail.com