

Newsletter of The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table
Welcome to our fellowship forum where we discuss our past, emphasizing
remembrance, education & preservation.
Meetings held virtually on Zoom
Online: harrisburgcwr.org

October 16—Dr. Rachel A. Shelden
The Antebellum U. S. Congress

Dr. Shelden is Associate Professor of History and Director of the George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center at Penn State University. She is the author of *Washington Brotherhood: Politics, Social Life, and the Coming of the Civil War* (University of North Carolina Press, 2013), which received honorable mention for the Wiley-Silver Prize for the best first book on the American Civil War and was a selection of the History Book Club. She was co-editor, with Gary Gallagher, of *A Political Nation: New Directions in Mid-Nineteenth-Century American Political History* (University of Virginia Press, 2012).



Dr. Shelden received her BA from Stanford University, an MA from the University of Virginia and was awarded her PhD from the University of Virginia. Prior to Penn State, she taught at the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Shelden will deliver her talk via Zoom. To join the meeting, click on this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85403907155?pwd=SFJ2R2xRMlZUU2tOVzdESEdQ\\$0plOT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85403907155?pwd=SFJ2R2xRMlZUU2tOVzdESEdQ$0plOT09)

Meeting ID: 854 0390 7155

Passcode: 524189

Or call 1-301-715-8592

Please join the meeting by 6:45 pm

Attending Zoom Meetings

To download the Zoom app (one time only):

1. Click on the Zoom link in the newsletter or Web site and then click *OK* to skip the prompt
2. At the bottom of the browser window click the link *download & run Zoom*
3. Type your name and select *Join Meeting*
4. Select *Join with Video* and *Join with Computer Audio*

To join a Zoom meeting—2 ways:

- ◆ Click on the invitation link—to see attendees and speaker
 - ◆ Dial in on the phone number—to only hear meeting
1. Either way you join, then key the *Meeting ID*
 2. Key in the *Passcode*
 3. At the end of the meeting, click *Leave Meeting* button at the bottom right of the screen

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President's Pen

The challenge is in the moment; the time is always now. – James Baldwin

We successfully kicked off our 62nd campaign year in September with a stimulating presentation by Dr. Katy Shively of Virginia Commonwealth University on how common soldiers coped with environmental hazards during the Peninsula and Shenandoah Valley campaigns of 1862. Thirty of our members participated. We demonstrated that Zoom technology works, even when our speaker is far away. We're hoping for an even better turn-out for our October engagement. It is hard to imagine a timelier topic than the Antebellum U.S. Congress. If you think Capitol Hill is polarized today, conditions were even worse in the 1850s. Let's hope things work out better this time around!

If you haven't looked at our website recently, you should give it another look. We've made a lot of improvements to it. Check it out! www.harrisburgcwrt.org

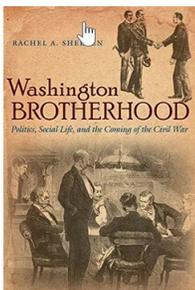
We're hoping to get all our members to reenlist by the end of October. If you have already done so, many thanks. If you have yet to "re-up," you can use the form on the back of this newsletter or the one at the bottom of the membership page on our website. I want to say a special word of thanks to those who, in addition to paying their annual dues, made a donation to help our Round Table get through this difficult period. To date, more than \$2,800 in donations have been received for Campaign 62. Your generosity will enable us to defray the many expenses associated with running the HCWRT at a time when we have no income from field trips or book raffles.

Looking forward to seeing more of you at the October Zoom meeting!

Steve Smith

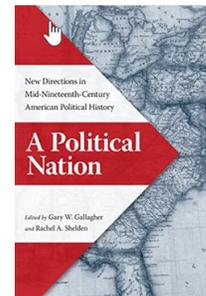
Donations to the Harrisburg CWRT has been made in memory of

**Dr. Richard J. Sommers, Edwin C. Bearss,
Robert D. Myers, Norman W. Daniels**



Dr. Sheldon's Talk

As will be revealed in Dr. Sheldon's presentation, the 1850s might have featured some of the most famous and violent arguments in American history, but in Washington, congressmen entered a social and political atmosphere that bred a sense of community and brotherhood. Ultimately, that atmosphere created a "Washington bubble" that left many congressmen unprepared for secession and war in 1861.



Meeting Schedule—Campaign 62

11/20/20

George B. McClellan and the Seven Days Campaign
Ethan Rafuse

12/10/20 (Thursday)

The Great Partnership: Robert E. Lee & Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson
Christian Keller

1/22/21

Abraham Lincoln
Matthew Pinsker

2/26/21

William B. Cushing
Jim Brommer, HCWRT Member

3/26/21

Hinsonville's Heroes
Cheryl Renee Gooch

4/23/21

George G Meade and the Pursuit After Gettysburg
Eric Wittenberg

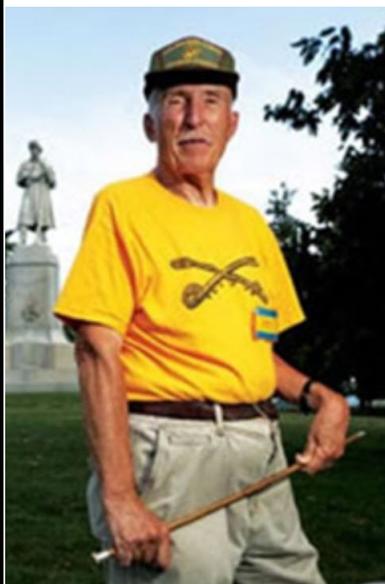
5/21/21—Nye-Sommers Lecture

R. E. Lee
Allen C. Guelzo

6/11/21

Cold Harbor
Bert Dunkerly

In Memoriam



Ed Bearss passed away September 15 at the age of 97. He had a long career with the National Park Service, rising in 1981 to Chief Historian. His unique presentation style and obvious passion for his subject made him a much sought after tour guide and speaker—even into his 90s.

He was committed to battlefield preservation, serving as a member of the Civil War Trust board, and as historian emeritus for the successor organization—the American Battlefield Trust.

Ed spoke to the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table several times to a captive audience.

A tribute to Ed during the Antietam 158th anniversary of the battle can be viewed on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXUF-i38mfA&t=16s>

There are numerous tributes to be found on the Internet; Ed was beloved by Civil War historians everywhere—he will be missed.

Field Trip Update

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the HCWRT was forced to postpone the fall field trip to Fredericksburg that was tentatively scheduled for October 24. This follows on the heels of the cancellation of our “sold out” spring field trip to Antietam last May. This is pretty discouraging news for those who were looking forward to our popular field trips, not to mention for the guides we had lined up. Our finances took a big hit, too. Our treasurer had to refund all the payments he had received for the spring field trip, and we lost two major fundraising opportunities. After membership dues and donations, field trips are our biggest source of revenue.

The good news is, our guides for both the spring and fall field trips have agreed to simply “punt” into 2021, and we’ve rescheduled both trips in the hope that, by next year, a vaccine will be available and life can return to some semblance of normal. Our spring field trip to Antietam, with Dennis Frye as our guide, is rescheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2021, and our fall field trip to Fredericksburg, with Chris Mackowski as our guide, is rescheduled for Saturday, October 23, 2021.

We will give first chance to sign up for the rescheduled spring field trip to those who signed up for last spring’s trip, then open up any remaining seats. More details to follow.

Keep your fingers crossed!

Odds & Ends

- ◆ The *American Battlefield Trust* continues to sponsor interesting and thought-provoking virtual events. Check under Events at <https://www.battlefields.org/>
- ◆ The *Emerging Civil War* blog posts multiple short articles every day or so; enough to satisfy most every Civil Warrior. <https://Emergingcivilwar.com>
- ◆ The Army Heritage Center Foundation has an abundance of YouTube videos and monthly virtual presentation on Civil War and other military history. <https://www.youtube.com/user/AHCFoundation/videos>
- ◆ The Civil War Round Table Congress has a lecture series of interest to students of the Civil War. www.CWRTCongress.org/lectures.html



Gen. John W. Geary
Gettysburg NMP

The Dispatch

The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table
500 Bonnymead Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17111

September 2020

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Harrisburg Civil War Round Table Enlistment Form

Current Member Renewal

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

Donations

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- Other_____

Individual or Family Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Contacts:

For questions call: Don Madar, Membership, Phone: 814-397-0072, email hcwrt.membership@gmail.com

Mail checks to: Norm Daniels, Treasurer, Phone 717-561-0613, 500 Bonnymead Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17111