

*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

*November 20—Dr. Ethan S. Rafuse*

*Seven Days of Battle and their Long Shadow:  
The Union Perspective on the 1862 Fight for Richmond*

Ethan S. Rafuse is professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. His publications include *McClellan's War: The Failure of Moderation in the Struggle for the Union* and guides to the Richmond-Petersburg, Maryland, and Manassas campaigns. In 2018-19 he was the Charles Boal Ewing Distinguished Visiting Professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

The Seven Days Battles were a critical turning point in the Union war effort. The failure to capture Richmond shattered Northern faith in Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's vision that a combination of a lenient policy toward Southern property and a single, decisive campaign against the Confederate capital from the Peninsula would bring a quick end to the Civil War. In the weeks following the Seven Days Battles, Washington decisively eschewed both elements of McClellan's strategic vision. The U.S. Congress passed a sweeping Confiscation Act, Abraham Lincoln drafted the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, heralding an end to a policy of conciliation toward the rebels, and Lincoln saw in the course and outcome of the Peninsula Campaign compelling evidence that he had been wrong to defer to McClellan's operational vision, which would lead him to terminate operations on the Peninsula.

This presentation will look at the Union high command during the Peninsula Campaign and Seven Days Battles and the broader contexts that shaped its performance, with particular focus on the strategic and operational vision that guided McClellan's conduct of operations and how the course and outcome of events east of Richmond affected the Union war effort in 1862 and beyond.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83613617449?pwd=Rlk2Om1PbWlQMFA5bnUwMTI4Mno5UT09>

Meeting ID: 836 1361 7449

Passcode: 407853

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 great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally present in all that we do. – James Baldwin*

I am happy to report that the number of members who are tuning in to our monthly meetings via Zoom keeps going up. We had 22 participants in June, 30 in September, and 40 in October. Our Zoom account can accommodate up to 100 participants, so there is still plenty of room to grow. I hope even more of you will tune in on Friday, November 20 for Dr. Ethan Rafuse's presentation on the Seven Days Campaign. For those who missed our 2017 field trip to Richmond to study that campaign, this should be the next best thing to being there. For those who were fortunate enough to join us on that trip, this presentation should bring back a flood of good memories.

The COVID-19 pandemic appears to be getting worse instead of better. While we all look forward to the prospect of restarting our dinner meetings, it is simply too risky to do so for the time being. Zoom is what's keeping us going in the meantime. CWRTs that did not make the transition to virtual technology may not be able to survive the ongoing pandemic, but I am confident the Harrisburg CWRT will.

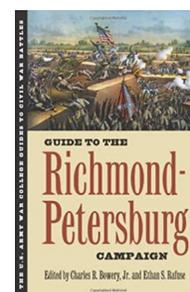
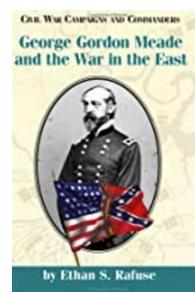
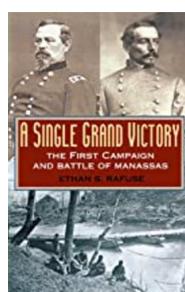
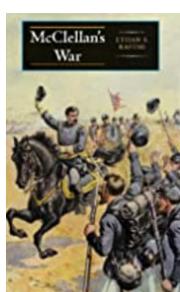
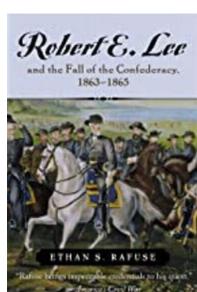
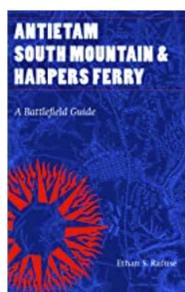
Thanks to all our members who have reenlisted. If you have not already done so, you can use the form on the back of this newsletter or the one at the bottom of the membership page on our website. Special thanks to those members who, in addition to paying their annual dues, made a donation to help our Round Table defray expenses during this challenging period. To date, more than \$3,240 in donations have been received for Campaign 62. That is a genuine cause for thanksgiving!

Looking forward to seeing more of you at the November Zoom meeting! Encourage your friends and neighbors to join us on Zoom!

Steve Smith

A donation to the Harrisburg CWRT has been made in memory of  
**Dr. Richard J. Sommers and Gene Sawyer**

## Books by Ethan Rafuse



## Meeting Schedule—Campaign 62

**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

## Harrisburg Civil War Round Table History

The Dispatch of November 2000 was very newsy. Dr. Bruce Venter spoke about Judson Kilpatrick. Meetings were held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. The Preservation and Historic Sites Funding Campaign begun in 1999 continued to gain support, issuing "commissions" based on level of support, from General-in-Chief at \$250 to 2nd Lieutenant at \$5.

Let's see how you do on a Civil War Quiz in the newsletter from 20 years ago:

1. The self-proclaimed neutrality of Kentucky was violated in early September 1861 when Southern troops occupied an important Mississippi River town in the state. Identify both the town and the Confederate general who ordered it occupied.
2. Name the Georgian who rose to divisional command in the Army of Northern Virginia, only to be relieved by Longstreet for alleged poor performance during the Knoxville Campaign. His subsequent reinstatement by President Jefferson Davis led to a threat of resignation by Longstreet.
3. An item of great controversy in the Federal conscription law was a provision that any whose name had been drawn in the draft could still avoid military service until the next drawing by paying a fee. What is the specified amount of that fee which enabled the rich to stay out of the army?
4. Identify the Union major general, commander of a corps of the Army of the Potomac at Chancellorsville, who was relieved of his command at his own request after that battle because of his unwillingness to further serve under Major General Joseph Hooker. Subsequently, he was put in charge of the Pennsylvania Militia during the Gettysburg campaign and later led a division of the XXIII Corps at Nashville.
5. Name the general who served as chief quartermaster of the Army of the Potomac under all its commanders from McClellan to Meade. In June 1864 he was appointed by Grant to the same post for all the armies operating against Richmond.
6. The revolutionary Spencer breech-loading repeating carbine became a standard arm in the Federal cavalry before the end of the Civil War. How many metallic cartridges were contained in its tubular magazine?

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### Odds & Ends

- ◆ Sunday, 28 November, in honor of "Museum Store Sunday," all merchandise at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center bookstore will be 15% off. The bookstore will be open from 12:00 noon until 4:30 pm that day.
- ◆ 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](http://www.CWRTCongress.org/lectures.html)

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Quiz Answers: 1. Columbus, Kentucky; Leonidas Polk. 2. Lafayette McLaw. 3. \$300. 4. Darius Couch. 5. Rufus Ingalls. 6. Seven



# The Dispatch

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

Novesember 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 will be held by Zoom until it is safe to have live meetings again.

Online: [harrisburgcwr.org](http://harrisburgcwr.org)



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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 \_\_\_\_\_ (specify)

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#### Contacts:

For questions call: Don Madar, Membership, Phone: 814-397-0072, email [hcwrt.membership@gmail.com](mailto:hcwrt.membership@gmail.com)  
Mail checks to: Norm Daniels, Treasurer, Phone 717-561-0613, 500 Bonnymead Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17111

If your donation is made in the memory or in recognition of someone, please provide name(s) here: \_\_\_\_\_