

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

December 10—Dr. Christian B. Keller

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

Since 2011, Dr. Keller has been Professor of History in the Department of National Security and Strategy at the United States Army War College in Carlisle where he teaches courses for senior leaders on the theory of war and strategy, national security policy and strategy, and the American Civil War. In April 2017 he was named the General Dwight D. Eisenhower Chair of National Security, and in 2019 became the Director of the Military History Program. Previously, he served as Professor of Military History for five and a half years at the Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Belvoir, VA, and has also taught at numerous civilian institutions, including Shippensburg University, Gettysburg College, Dickinson College, and Washington and Lee University.



He earned a B.A. from Washington and Lee and his Ph.D. from Penn State in 2001, studying under both Gary W. Gallagher and Mark E. Neely. In 2001-2002 he was a Fulbright Professor of American History at the University of Jena, Germany.

Along with many scholarly articles focusing on strategic, operational, and ethnic topics in the Civil War, he is author of *Chancellorsville and the Germans: Nativism, Ethnicity, and Civil War Memory* (Fordham, 2007); co-author of *Damn Dutch: Pennsylvania Germans at Gettysburg* (Stackpole/Rowman-Littlefield, 2004); co-author of *Pennsylvania: A Military History* (Westholme, 2016); and, most recently, author of *The Great Partnership: Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and the Fate of the Confederacy* (Pegasus Books, 2019), which won the 2020 Douglas Southall Freeman History Award and was a finalist for the 2019 Gilder Lehrman Best Book in Military History.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82527579931?pwd=V0V2KytuWDRHRE94eUV2SXRVRUR2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 825 2757 9931

Passcode: 913340

Or call 1-301-715-8592

NOTE!
Meeting is on Thursday this month

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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"Sometimes there comes a crack in Time itself. Sometimes the earth is torn by something blind"
Stephen Vincent Benét, "John Brown's Body"

As the coronavirus continues to wreak havoc across the land, and our traditional holiday plans are upended, there is light at the end of this tunnel. Every day brings more news of highly effective vaccines that over time will rid us of this scourge if enough of us get vaccinated. They hold the potential to enable us to return to normal life, and resume our dinner meetings and field trips. This too shall pass!

Meanwhile, our virtual meetings enable us to enjoy stimulating lectures from world-class authors and experts from the safety of our own homes. In November, Professor Ethan Rafuse put the Peninsula Campaign of 1862 in an entirely new perspective and challenged us to reassess preconceived notions about General George B. McClellan. You won't want to miss our December engagement, at which Army War College Professor Christian Keller will offer new perspectives on the great partnership between Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson.

A few reminders... Our December meeting takes place on a **THURSDAY** night, not a Friday (the date was locked in long ago so as not to conflict with Christmas parties at the Radisson). Please join us 15 minutes prior to our 7:00 pm start time, so you can enjoy the company of our fellow members and not interrupt the pledge of allegiance or invocation. Please invite your friends and family members to join us by forwarding a copy of this newsletter to them. They do not have to be members to participate in our Zoom sessions.

Thanks again 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. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! I look forward to seeing all of you at the December Zoom meeting. Wishing all of you happy and healthy holidays, and better luck next year!

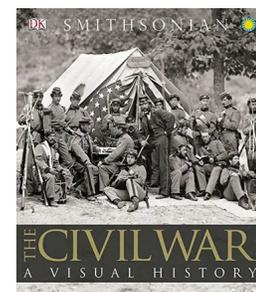
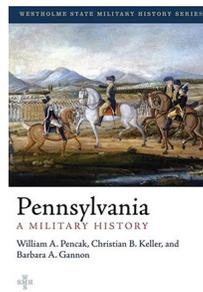
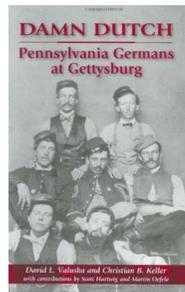
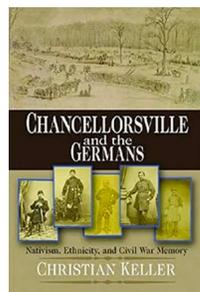
Steve Smith

Dr. Keller's Presentation

Dr. Keller's presentation will be on his recently released book, *The Great Partnership*.

Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson were much closer personally and professionally than previous authors have recognized, forging a relationship in 1862-1863 of truly strategic significance for the fate of the Confederacy. Jackson's death following Chancellorsville in May 1863 devastated both Lee and the nation he served, setting in motion branches and sequels that bore ill fruit in the fateful Pennsylvania Campaign.

Dr. Keller's next book, an edited anthology of essays on Confederate strategy written exclusively by War College students and faculty, is entitled *Southern Strategies: Why the Confederacy Failed*, and is forthcoming in spring 2021 from the University Press of Kansas. A selection of other recorded public appearances, radio interviews, and podcasts, may be found at www.christianbkeller.com.



Meeting Schedule—Campaign 62

1/22/21

Slave Stampede and Wartime Emancipation
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

Odds & Ends

Used Book Sale at AHEC December 12 from 10 am to 4:30 pm and December 13 from noon to 4:30 pm. Sale in multipurpose rooms 3 and 4.

Tax Tip. Here's an important tax tip that will impact all of our members. As a result of the CARES pandemic relief Act passed last March, all taxpayers can take a deduction on their 2020 federal income tax return for up to \$300.00 worth of cash contributions, as long as the contributions are made by the last day of 2020 to a recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization like the Harrisburg CWRT.

This represents a one-time exception to the general rule that you can only deduct charitable contributions if you itemize your deductions. Since nine out of ten taxpayers take the standard deduction instead of itemizing, most taxpayers these days derive no tax benefit from their charitable giving. However, in an effort to encourage charitable giving during this pandemic, Congress decided to provide us with a special tax incentive.

If you have already paid your dues or made a cash donation, you will be able to deduct your contribution as an adjustment to income, which will lower your taxable income and the amount of tax you pay. If you haven't paid your dues or made a donation yet, you have until the end of December to do so if you want to take advantage of this tax break. And if you already paid your dues or made a donation, but would like to contribute more to further decrease your tax bill, you can still do so as long as the contribution is made by check by the end of the month.

This article contains more information on this special tax break for 2020:

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/20/your-money/charity-deductions-taxes-coronavirus.html?action=click&algo=banditallsurfaces&block=trending_recirc&fallback=false&imp_id=482994758&impressionid=b01d8b85-2e5b-11ebbec21d64dbd15960&index=5&pgtype=Article®ion=footer&req_id=719849013&surface=most-popular

Contact our treasurer, Norm Daniels, or our president, Steve Smith, for more details.

HCWRT History. Skirmish 1, November 1959 the Round Table met in the State Museum Building in Harrisburg. There were two presentations at the meeting, the Vice President, Dr. H. Truesdale Rensel spoke about the Soldiers and Sailors obelisk which stood at the intersection of Second and State Streets. [Now on the campus of William Penn High School, near Italian Lake per our President, Steve Smith]. The second talk was by the newsletter editor, Commander Ray Cobaugh, USNR who spoke on the Civil War at Sea—information even for a foot soldier. They did not appear to meet in December or else our voluminous file is missing that newsletter.



Merry Christmas



Civil War Study Resources

- ◆ 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. <https://www.youtube.com/c/cwrtcongress>



The Dispatch

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

December 2020

Gen. John W. Geary
Gettysburg NMP

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

Online: harrisburgcwr.org



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Current Member Renewal

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

Donations*

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- Other _____ (specify)

Individual or Family Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Contacts:

For questions call: Don Madar, Membership, Phone: 814-397-0072, email hcvrt.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 memory or in recognition of someone, please provide name(s) here: _____
