

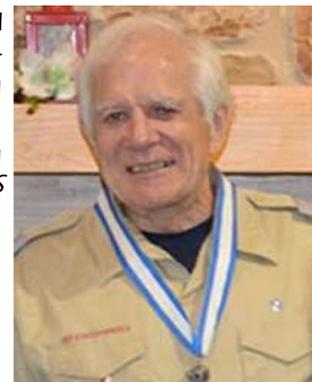
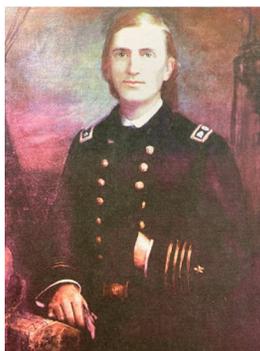
*Newsletter of The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table*  
Welcome to our fellowship forum where we discuss our past, emphasizing  
remembrance, education & preservation.  
Meetings held virtually on Zoom  
Online: harrisburgcwr.org

*February 26—Jim Brommer*

## *SEAL of the Sounds—William B. Cushing, Commander, U. S. Navy*

Born in Schuylkill County, Jim grew up in Pine Grove. After high school, he was graduated from Lebanon Valley College. Jim and his wife, Cathy, live in Mechanicsburg; they are the parents of a son and daughter, and have five grandchildren, a great grandchild and two more on the way.

Jim will recount the story of the celebrated naval hero, William B. Cushing, who led a daring torpedo boat commando attack that sank the Confederacy's formidable ironclad ram, the *CSS Albemarle*, on the Roanoke River at Plymouth, North Carolina, in October 1864.



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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89938053489?pwd=VG1WZFJ0T01CaDBkY1RYcVlzVG1wUT09>

Meeting ID: 899 3805 3489

Passcode: 860923

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

### **Executive Officers**

**President**, Steve Smith  
smith337@erau.edu

**Vice President**, John West  
john@johnwest.com

**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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**Communications/PR**, Todd Little

**Field Trips**, Steve Smith

**Membership**, Don Madar

**Newsletter**, Tracy Sommers

**Nominating**, Linda Meeneghan

**Preservation**, Curtis Wolf

**Programs**, Al Mackey

**Webmaster**, John West

## *President's Pen*

*"Petit à petit, un oiseau fait son nid"*  
("Little by little, a bird makes its nest.")  
— French proverb

Let's face it. It's taking a lot longer to get people vaccinated against COVID-19 than anticipated. At this rate, we are unlikely to achieve anything close to herd immunity anytime soon. With this in mind, the Harrisburg CWRT board decided, at its winter meeting on 30 January, to continue our virtual engagements on Zoom for the remainder of Campaign 62. We will reassess the situation at our summer board meeting on 19 June and decide whether it is safe enough to resume live meetings in Campaign 63, which begins in September.

While Zoom is no substitute for the camaraderie we enjoyed at our live meetings, our virtual engagements keep getting better and better, and the number of participants keeps growing. If you've been putting off joining in our Zoom meetings in the hope that we would be able to resume live meetings soon, you should give Zoom a try. If you've already participated in our Zoom sessions, consider inviting friends and family to tune in. Send them a link! This is an opportunity to expand our reach, and to include those who live outside the Harrisburg area.

The Harrisburg CWRT has a long tradition of inviting our members to make presentations. In Campaign 61 we heard from Greg Hillebrand and Joe Boslet. This month our past president, Jim Brommer, will regale us with the story of one of the most intrepid naval officers of the Civil War, William B. Cushing. Let's show our support for one of our own by all tuning in on Friday, 26 February.

Many thanks to those who have already paid their dues and made donations to our Round Table. You are keeping us afloat while we navigate stormy seas. If you haven't paid your dues yet, we could use your help!

Steve Smith

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Donations to the Harrisburg CWRT have been made in memory of  
**Dr. Richard J. Sommers and Gene Sawyer**

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### *Antietam Field Trip Postponed Until September 11, 2021*

By this time last year, we had sold out our spring 2020 field trip to Antietam with guide Dennis Frye. We wound up having to postpone that trip because of the pandemic. In fairness to those who signed up, we returned their checks and said we would offer them first dibs on signing up for the rescheduled trip. We were hoping that by May of this year things would be back to normal.

As it turns out, we were too optimistic. After consulting with Dennis Frye and the bus company that supports our field trips, we've further postponed the field trip to Antietam until Saturday, September 11, 2021. We are hoping that by then, everyone who wants to go on the trip will be fully vaccinated, and we can board a bus without jeopardizing the health of our participants. Those who signed up for the trip in 2020 will still be given first dibs on participating in the September trip. More details on the upcoming trip will appear in next month's newsletter. For now, simply **save the date**.

Our fall field trip to Fredericksburg with guide Chris Mackowski is still scheduled for Saturday, October 23, 2021. Watch this space for more details.

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### *Meeting Schedule—Campaign 62*

**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

### HCWRT History

November 1959 the HCWRT also had a talk on naval operations. Commander Ray Cobaugh, USNR spoke on the Civil War at Sea. He was also the newsletter editor and commented that even a foot soldier would find worthwhile information in his talk.

In 1963, the HCWRT sponsored the 5th National Assembly of Civil War Round Tables in cooperation with *Civil War Times Illustrated*. The Assembly honored the Centennial of the Battle of Gettysburg.

February 1967, Colonel Nye of the Nye-Sommers lecture fame, spoke on Jeb Stuart and the Gettysburg Campaign. A panel of past presidents Ed Olmstead and Bob Hoffsommer discussed pros and cons of Lee's orders and Jeb's execution.

1967 Field Trips/Events: February-Cobaugh Museum; March-First Manassas; April-Seven Days; May-Flight of Booth; June-Gettysburg Cannon; September-Cedar Mountain; October-Gettysburg Retreat.

### Civil War Quiz

Well. . . Last month's quiz was apparently too hard. Let's try again!

1. Who is buried in Grant's tomb?.
2. What battlefield was described in these words: *A chicken could not live on that field when we open on it?*
3. Killed in action at The Angle on Cemetery Ridge while repulsing Pickett's Charge, this artillery officer received the Medal of Honor posthumously in 2014.. Also, name his famous brother, a naval officer. (see John Heiser's article at <https://www.nps.gov/gett/learn/historyculture/cushing-at-gettysburg.htm>)

### Membership Policy

An updated New Member Dues Policy was approved by the HCWRT Board on January 30. The following will be implemented, and was piloted this past Campaign, for future Campaign years.

1. New Campaign dues are payable beginning July 1 every year for all current members.
2. We will target September and October for the collection of new dues from membership.
3. Any new member dues paid after October and through February will be collected at the full rate.
4. Any new member dues paid in March through April will be charged at half the annual rate.
5. Any new member dues paid after May 1 will be considered dues paid for the following Campaign year.

This new policy change helps to streamline the dues collection process as well being fair to new members who join our organization throughout the Campaign year.

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## 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>

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### Civil War Quiz Answers

1. Grant 2. Fredericksburg 3. 1st Lt. Alonzo Cushing; check this newsletter's cover story for the famous brother.



# The Dispatch

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

February 2021

Gen. John W. Geary  
Gettysburg NMP

## The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

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

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



Follow the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table on  
Facebook and on Twitter@HBRGCWRT



## Harrisburg Civil War Round Table Enlistment Form

### Current Member Renewal

- Individual \$24
- Family \$36
- 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 [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 memory or in recognition of someone, please provide name(s) here: \_\_\_\_\_

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