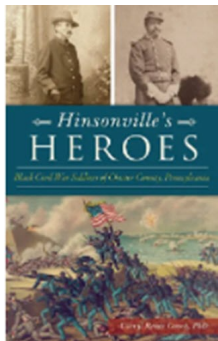


Newsletter of The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table
Welcome to our fellowship forum where we discuss our past, emphasizing
remembrance, education & preservation.
Meetings held virtually on Zoom
Online: harrisburgcwr.org

March 26—Cheryl Renée Gooch *Hinsonville's Heroes: Black Civil War Soldiers of Chester County, PA*

Dr. Cheryl Renée Gooch, author of *Hinsonville's Heroes: Black Civil War Soldiers of Chester County, Pennsylvania* (The History Press, February 2018) traces the stories of 18 residents of Hinsonville, a free black community in southeast Pennsylvania, who fought for the Union. The former 19th century village of Hinsonville attracted both free and determined to be free people who championed religious freedom, higher education, land ownership and equal rights.



Dr. Gooch is an academic leader, published scholar and active historical researcher. She uses her teaching, research and leadership knowledge and skills to develop impactful programs focusing on the diverse American experience for museums and cultural heritage sites. She served as historian and primary writer for the Delaware History Museum's permanent exhibit, *Journey to Freedom* which chronicles the Black Delawarean experience from 1629 to the present. A Life member of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, she serves as a member of the organization's National Heritage Sites Research committee in partnership with the National Park Service to plan, develop and promote inclusive historical interpretations of the American experience. Since its release, *Hinsonville's Heroes* has generated active interest among Civil War Round Table and general audiences.



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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85375225631?pwd=SmYrNndsRU9uZURkS0ZTbHJMOnJKOT09>

Meeting ID: 853 7522 5631

Passcode: 891990

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, Steve Smith
smith337@erau.edu

Vice President, John West
john@johnwest.com

Treasurer, Norm Daniels
nld500@aol.com

Secretary, Ed Hicks
secretary@harrisburgcwr.org

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"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

— American proverb

Last March, we were all looking forward to hearing from Dr. Cheryl Renée Gooch on her book about the gallant African-American soldiers from Chester County who fought in some of the most consequential battles of the Civil War. Unfortunately, that was also the month that COVID-19 reared its ugly head and forced us to cancel our meetings at the Radisson indefinitely.

In the meantime, we've mastered the technique of holding our meetings virtually and I am pleased to announce that Dr. Gooch has agreed to make her presentation via Zoom, as have our other speakers for the remainder of Campaign 62. While we would all prefer to meet face-to-face, it is still too dangerous to do so. We can't risk losing anyone to this dreaded disease, which has already killed over half a million Americans. We hope to resume live meetings in September.

Thanks to all who tuned in last month to hear our past president, Jim Brommer, regale us with his tale of *William B. Cushing, the SEAL of the Sounds*. Jim literally had us on the edge of our seats. I also want to thank our vice-president, John West, for all he did to help Jim adapt his talk for Zoom and ensure we were able to broadcast from Jim's home in Mechanicsburg. We had record attendance for this Zoom talk, an encouraging sign that more and more of our members are getting the hang of Zoom.

Many thanks to those who have already paid their dues and made donations to our Round Table. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please do. If you receive a stimulus payment that exceeds your current needs, consider making a donation!

Steve Smith

Donations to the Harrisburg CWRT have been made in memory of
Dr. Richard J. Sommers and Colonel (Ret.) AJose Manuel Alvarez, Jr.

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 be forthcoming. 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.

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 62

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

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest

- ◆ If you missed any of the Gettysburg National Military Park's Winter Lecture Series, all of the presentations are archived on the park's website: www.nps.gov/gett.
- ◆ View *Lincoln: Divided We Stand* docuseries on CNN Sundays at 10:00 pm through March 21. If you missed the beginning, you can catch up viewing on CNN's website.
- ◆ You may know that Dick Sommers had an extensive collection of military miniatures, primarily Napoleonic figures, but also medieval, ancient Roman and other eras. He began collecting as a very young boy and continued all his life. Most of the miniatures are Mignot, some Britain and Lucotte. The miniatures will go on sale April 17 at AHEC from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. AHEC is also having a used book sale that same day; they always have a wonderful selection of books.
- ◆ *Southern Strategies: Why the Confederacy Failed*, a new book edited by our December speaker, Dr. Christian Keller, is being released this spring. The book contains a series of essays contributed by experienced military leaders and professors of military history identifying and analyzing mistakes made by Confederate political and strategic leadership which handicapped the prospects for independence.

HCWRT History

In the file cabinet of Harrisburg Civil War Round Table ephemera retained by Dick Sommers are folders of newsletters dating back to 1959. Skirmish 1-Volley 4 was a half-page sheet detailing the upcoming speakers (2) for the next meeting. Subsequent newsletters were longer and very cleverly written. All were signed "Your CWRT Scribe," so the editor was a mystery to us today. Maybe an "old timer" will know who it was. Speaking of old timers, there is a mention of "Comrade George Caba" (Craig's daddy?) in January 1961 (Skirmish 3, Volley 1) as the newsletter printer—this and subsequent newsletters were on ditto paper—remember that? See a mention of Doug Gibboney in April 1965 (Skirmish 6, Volley 9). Several well-known to us CWRTablers are mentioned in Skirmish 13, Volley 1. (No date on the newsletter, but I think it was September 1971.) Dick Sommers lined up as a speaker in January 1972, Norman L and Norman W. Daniels repped for the 1971-72 campaign, Willis Kocher elected President for the same campaign. All these fellows may have been mentioned earlier and other "old timers" in later issues, I just got tired of glancing through and quit at Skirmish 14, Volley 2 around October 1972. The ditto sheets had ceased at Skirmish 10, Volley 7, March 1969 along with the date of the newsletter.

Excellent speakers from the beginning. Early meetings included a Meade-Sickles debate conducted by an avid Civil War buff, Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association Director, and two Battlefield Guides. Other speakers included Colonel Wilbur Nye, a member and professional Army historian. Dr. Francis A. Lord who was on the Advisory Council to the Civil War Centennial Commission, a talk on John Singleton Mosby by his grandson. Wow! On and on with names we all know and revere. Field trips of course to Gettysburg, but also South Mountain, Union Mills, Chancellorsville, Harper's Ferry, etc., some overnight trips.

It is fun and interesting going back in time; any "old timer" reminiscences are welcome, send me a story.

Your new CWRT Scribe

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

March 2021

Gen. John W. Geary
Gettysburg NMP

The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

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- \$100
- Other _____ (specify)

Individual or Family Name _____

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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

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