

Campaign 62
Skirmish 8
April 23, 2021

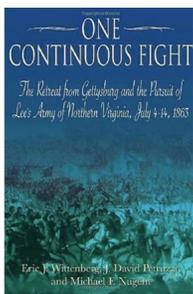
The Dispatch

Editor
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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

April 23—Eric J. Wittenberg George G. Meade and the Pursuit After Gettysburg

Eric J. Wittenberg is an award-winning Civil War author. A native of southeastern Pennsylvania, Eric was educated at Dickinson College, the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. He is a partner in the Columbus, Ohio law firm of Cook, Sladoje & Wittenberg Co., L.P.A., where he manages the firm's litigation practice.



Mr. Wittenberg is the author of 22 critically acclaimed books on the American Civil War, several of which have won awards, as well as more than three dozen articles published in national magazines. He is in regular demand as a speaker and tour guide, and travels the country regularly doing both. He serves on the boards of trustees of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and the Little Big Horn Associates, and often works with the American Battlefield Trust on battlefield preservation initiatives. He is also the program coordinator for the Chambersburg Civil War Seminars. His specialty is cavalry operations in the Civil War.



He and his wife Susan reside in Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Wittenberg will speak to us on Major General George G. Meade's pursuit of General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia after the battle of Gettysburg, based on his book, *One Continuous Fight: The Retreat from Gettysburg and the Pursuit of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, July 4-14, 1863*.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89554954129?pwd=dEhIOE8wd1dDREF6bGtodWlwRU4rZz09>

Meeting ID: 895 5495 4129

Passcode: 402873

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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"Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost."

– John 6:12

Our March speaker, Dr. Cheryl Renée Gooch, cited this Bible verse during her presentation, and it really resonated with those who tuned in that night. It perfectly describes her work as an historian who is committed to restorative justice, to revealing what has been obscured. In a larger sense, it describes what the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table, and hundreds of other CWRTs across the country, are all about. We strive to preserve the memory of those who fought and died for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Turn-out for our March engagement was lighter than usual. It's unclear whether this was due to spring fever, Zoom fatigue, or other factors. What is clear is that we need our members' support to make our virtual engagements a success. We have three world-class military historians lined up for the balance of Campaign 62. Please mark your calendars now for April 23, May 21, and June 11, and plan to join us.

Our April engagement should be of special interest to anyone who participated in our spring field trip in 2018, in which we followed the path of Lee's retreat after the battle of Gettysburg with J. David Petruzzi as our guide. Our April speaker, celebrated cavalry historian Eric J. Wittenberg, co-authored the leading book on Lee's retreat, along with Petruzzi and Michael F. Nugent: *One Continuous Fight: The Retreat from Gettysburg and the Pursuit of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, July 4-14, 1863*. If you missed that field trip, all the more reason to join us on April 23 for Mr. Wittenberg's talk. He can take you there vicariously, and virtually, from the comfort of your home. I look forward to seeing you then!

Steve Smith

Fall Field Trips to Antietam and Fredericksburg Are A Go!

Our long-awaited field trip to Antietam with guide Dennis Frye, which we cancelled when the pandemic struck last spring, will take place on Saturday, September 11, 2021. As this newsletter goes to press, we are contacting all who signed up for the trip last year to give them first dibs on the rescheduled trip, as promised. They will have until May 1 to exercise their option to "buy back" their seats. After May 1 we will open any unsold seats to others.

Dennis Frye, who lives on the Antietam battlefield, is really looking forward to our visit in September. It will occur only a week before the 159th anniversary of the battle, so the weather and foliage should be very similar to what those who fought the battle experienced. A sit-down lunch at the Bavarian Inn in nearby Shepherdstown, WV is planned, which will be a real treat. Just as Antietam was followed by the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862, our second field trip of the fall will be to that battlefield with guide Chris Mackowski on Saturday, October 23. Save that date, and watch for a special announcement on that trip in the near future.

All this presupposes that the coronavirus pandemic will be under control by this fall, and that everyone who wants to go on the trips will be vaccinated. The current rate of vaccination is very encouraging. In the interests of safety, everyone participating in these field trips should be prepared to provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19.



Lee's Retreat Field Trip, 2018—Falling Waters, MD

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 62

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

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Cheryl Renée Gooch, March's speaker, will send autographed paperback copies of her book, *Hinsorville's Heroes*, to HCWRT members. You can order as follows:
Email: cherylg490@gmail.com
\$23.00 total (includes postage to USA only)
[PayPal.me/DrCRG](https://www.paypal.com/DrCRG) or Credit Card

HCWRT History

Digging into Dick's archives again, I came across a note in the August 1975 newsletter that the 1st Annual National Congress of Civil War Round Tables was to be held October 2-4 at the Holiday Inn in Manassas, Virginia. Speakers included Bell Wiley and Bud Robertson.

April 23, 1861, Major General Robert E. Lee was assigned to the command of the military and naval forces in Virginia. Same day, George McClellan was appointed Major General of the Ohio militia.

In 1974 and probably other surrounding years, field trips could be a week-end, with attendees driving down and meeting up at a predetermined location. Dick called them camel caravans with someone usually getting lost or going to the wrong meet point. April 19-20 of 1974 the trip covered the Second Bull Run campaign. Dick wrote: "Adding to our appreciation were the fine, three-dimensional contour maps made by Joe Boslet. The party in my car—Willis Kocher, Ed Olmstead, and I—moreover, experienced additional pleasures during a preliminary reconnaissance, April 18, to determine the practicability of leading the caravan over now abandoned roads once used by "Stonewall" Jackson. Before we lost the trail halfway up a steep slope in the middle of a pasture—with the sun rapidly sinking into the west—we managed to ford four unbridged streams and jolted along miles of red-clay tracks in which the Virginians, with their fine sense of history, have preserved every rut and pot hole cut by Jackson's wagons. My tires and fenders still bear much of what the Confederates in pride and Yankees in derision used to call 'the Sacred Soil of Virginia.'" How fun was that!

April 23, 1863 in *A Rebel War Clerk's Diary*,* is an entry:

The President's health is improving. His eye is better; and he would be in His office today (the first time for three weeks) if the weather (raining) had been fine. The expenses of the war amount now to \$60,000,000 per month, or \$720,000,000 per annum. This enormous expenditure is owing to the absurd prices charged for supplies by the farmers, to save whose slaves and farms the war is waged, in great part. They are charging the government \$20 per hundred weight, or \$400 per ton for hay! Well, we shall soon see if they be reluctant to pay the taxes soon to be required of them—one-tenth of all their crops, etc. If they refuse to pay, then what will they deserve?

*2015 edition Edited by James L. Robertson, Jr.

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 Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College will hold their 2021 Conference **virtually**, June 11-13. Pre-registration is required: <https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/>



The Dispatch

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

April 2021

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



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