

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

May 21—Nye-Sommers Lecture Dr. Allen C. Guelzo—*The Crime and the Glory of Robert E. Lee*

Dr. Guelzo is Director of the James Madison Program Initiative on Politics and Statesmanship and Senior Research Scholar in the Council of the Humanities at Princeton University. Previously, he was the Director of Civil War Era Studies and the Henry R. Luce Professor of the Civil War Era at Gettysburg College. During 2010-11 and again in 2017-18, he served as the William L. Garwood Visiting Professor in the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University. He holds an MA and Ph.D. in history from the University of Pennsylvania.



Dr. Guelzo has written many award-winning books, including *Gettysburg: The Last Invasion*, which won the Lincoln Prize for 2014, the inaugural Guggenheim-Lehrman Prize in Military History, the Fletcher Pratt Award of the New York City Round Table, and the Richard Harwell Award of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table. His most recent publications include *Redeeming the Great Emancipator* (Harvard University Press, 2016) which originated as the 2012 Nathan Huggins Lectures at Harvard University, and *Reconstruction: A Concise History* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Together with Patrick Allitt and Gary W. Gallagher, he team-taught The Teaching Company's American History series, as well as courses on Abraham Lincoln (*Mr. Lincoln*, 2005), American intellectual history (*The American Mind*, 2006), the American Revolution (2007), and the Founders (*America's Founding Fathers*, 2017).

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88970342175?pwd=bzBIWmOrOXJxd3O4OXTYOGhrODZDOT09>

Meeting ID: 889 7034 2175

Passcode: 114159

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
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Secretary, Ed Hicks
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Web Links (CTRL + click)
harrisburgcwr.org

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President's Pen

"It is well that war is so terrible. Otherwise we would grow too fond of it."

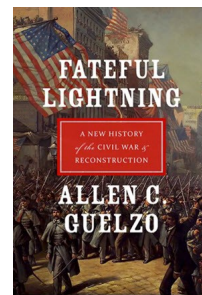
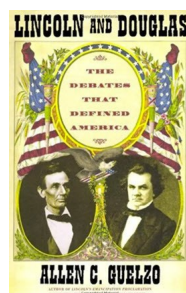
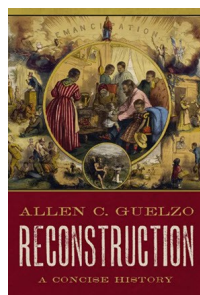
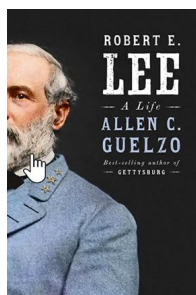
– Robert E. Lee

One of the most difficult things our Round Table leaders had to do last spring was to cancel our annual Nye-Sommers lecture in May. The celebrated historian Dr. Allen C. Guelzo, of Princeton University, had agreed to present that lecture, and we were looking forward to it with great anticipation.

The good news is that Dr. Guelzo agreed to delay his presentation until May of 2021, and, when it was still impracticable to meet in person, he agreed to address us via Zoom. This enables us to reach an even larger audience if you invite your family, friends and colleagues to join us, as I strongly encourage you to do.

We are in for a real treat next Friday, when one of the most renowned Civil War historians and best-selling authors in the country will give us a sneak preview of his new biography of Robert E. Lee, which will be released in September. Dr. Guelzo's presentation follows nicely in the footsteps of Eric Wittenberg's April lecture on Lee's retreat from Gettysburg. I am pleased to report that Zoom attendance at the April engagement was better than it was in March, and I hope even more of our members will decide to join us on Zoom on Friday, May 21 for what promises to be the highlight of Campaign 62. This is one talk you definitely do not want to miss. Let's show our support for our distinguished speaker, and our reverence for the memory of Colonel Nye and Dr. Sommers, by turning out in unprecedented numbers. As they say in the Navy, we need "all hands on deck!"

Steve Smith



An Update on Our Fall Field Trips

Our long-awaited field trip to Antietam with guide Dennis Frye will take place on Saturday, September 11. As this newsletter goes to press, the trip has sold out, and our Treasurer, Norm Daniels, has started a waiting list. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Norm at 717-712-7494 or at nld500@aol.com and ask him to put you on the waiting list—"first come, first served." Some participants inevitably fall out in the months leading up to a field trip, opening spaces for those on the waiting list. On past trips, we were able to accommodate almost everyone on the list. Here is the link to the Antietam flyer: <https://harrisburgcwr.org/events/field-trip-antietam/>

On May 1, we emailed flyers to our members regarding our second field trip of the fall, to Fredericksburg with guide Chris Mackowski, which will take place on Saturday, October 23. Within seven days, 21 of the 55 seats on the bus were reserved. We anticipate the remaining seats will fill up quickly, so if you are interested in going on the Fredericksburg trip, **don't delay, register today!** Your \$25.00 check will reserve your seat for now, with the \$70.00 balance due not later than September 23. Here is the link to the Fredericksburg flyer: <https://harrisburgcwr.org/events/field-trip-fredericksburg-va/>

The astonishing rate at which seats have filled up for both of these field trips evidences significant pent-up demand for getting back to life as we knew it before the pandemic reared its ugly head.

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 62

6/11/21

Cold Harbor

Bert Dunkerly

We'll Meet Again!

"We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when, but I know we'll meet again some sunny day."

—Vera Lynn

The lyrics to the most popular song in Britain during WWII capture what many of us have felt during this protracted and lethal pandemic: a longing for life to return to normal, so we can meet again and break bread together.

Recognizing that sentiment, your HCWRT Board of Directors met on Saturday, May 8 (V-E Day!) to decide if, how, and where we should attempt to return to live meetings. This meeting followed on the heels of a meeting with the catering manager at the Radisson to explore options.

The HCWRT's dinner meetings and square table sessions set us apart from other CWRTs. Our vision statement encourages us to "honor the traditions that have made our organization unique, while adapting to changing times and emerging challenges." While Zoom technology has been a godsend to us and has gotten us through a particularly difficult campaign, many of our members opted to not to use it and instead wait patiently for live meetings to resume. Our negotiations with the Radisson thus far have been encouraging, and they clearly miss us and want us to return. Every time we have changed meeting locations in the past, we have lost members.

With this in mind, the Board voted unanimously to continue our negotiations with the Radisson with a view towards resuming live dinner meetings beginning in September. We feel we owe it to our members to give it a try. How long we continue in that mode will depend on whether enough of our members are willing to come out to support this resumption of live meetings.

The Board also voted unanimously to find a way to incorporate Zoom technology into our Campaign 63 meetings, so that we can continue to reach out to those who live outside the commuting area, who are on vacation, who are unable to drive at night or are not ready to take the risk of attending meetings. There was recognition that the world fundamentally changed during the pandemic, and that virtual conference technology like Zoom can help us expand our reach, and hopefully, our membership.

In an effort to gauge sentiment, we will be reaching out to our members with a short survey this month. When you receive it, via email or in hard copy, we encourage you to take a few minutes to answer the questions and return it without delay, so we can report the results at our annual business meeting on Friday, June 11, which will be held on Zoom.

At that same meeting, we will hold elections for vacancies on our Board of Directors. Anyone interested in serving on the board should contact our past president, Linda Meenaghan, Chair of our Nominating Committee, at 717-245-2729 or by email at meenaghan1961@comcast.net.

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

May 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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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 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: _____