

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

June 11—Bert Dunkerly Cold Harbor—Myths and Misconceptions

Robert M. (Bert) Dunkerly is an historian, award-winning author, and speaker who is actively involved in historic preservation and research. He holds a degree in History from St. Vincent College and a Masters in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. He has worked at fourteen historic sites, written twelve books and numerous scholarly articles. Mr. Dunkerly's research includes archaeology, colonial life, military history, and historic commemoration.

He is currently a Park Ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park. He is a past President of the Richmond Civil War Round Table, and serves on the Preservation Commission for the American Revolution Round Table Richmond. Mr. Dunkerly has taught courses at Central Virginia Community College, the University of Richmond, and the Virginia Historical Society. He has visited over 500 battlefields and over 1000 historic sites worldwide. He enjoys exploring local bookstores, battlefields, and breweries, not necessarily in that order.



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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83302408412?pwd=MkRNTWNzZmRnUGO0bINpczFnZ01aZz09>

Meeting ID: 833 0240 8412

Passcode: 191174

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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smith337@erau.edu

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john@johnfwest.com

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nld500@aol.com

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"It seemed more like a volcanic blast than a battle, and was about as destructive."
—Captain Asa W. Bartlett, 12th New Hampshire, describing the Battle of Cold Harbor

As our 62nd campaign draws to a close, I cannot help but think back to where we were a year ago at this time. Campaign 61 went out with a whimper last spring. We had to cancel our last four dinner meetings and a sold-out field trip due to the pandemic. It was beginning to look as if Campaign 61 might be our last. It wasn't clear how we could continue as an organization if we could not meet with one another, and the experts were predicting the pandemic could last 18 months or more. Things were pretty bleak.

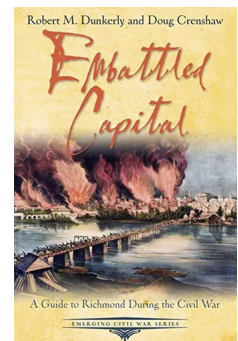
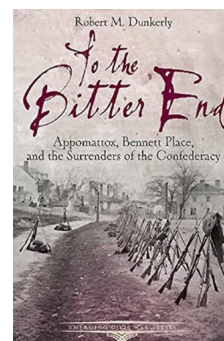
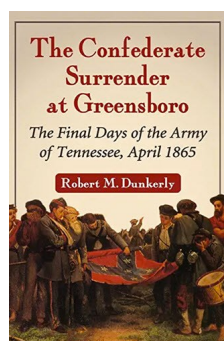
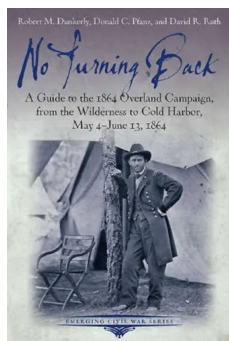
"When you're most despairing, that's when skies are clearing." Our webmaster, John West, volunteered to take over as Vice-President, and Don Madar said he'd be willing to take on the challenge of being our new Membership Chair. Tom Hendrix, one of our new members, suggested we sign up for a Zoom Pro account, and Cooper Wingert volunteered to test out the technology as our first virtual speaker last summer.

Fast forward to June of 2021. Thanks to a dedicated nationwide vaccination effort, we've turned the corner on this pandemic. We are planning to return to the Radisson for dinner meetings in September. All of the speakers Al Mackey lined up for Campaign 62 agreed to make their presentations by Zoom, culminating in our Nye-Sommers lecture last month, where more than 85 participants tuned in to hear Dr. Allen C. Guelzo give one of the best talks we've ever had. People from as far away as Louisville, KY tuned in. Our members have demonstrated their support for our efforts with dues and donations in excess of \$7,000. Our September field trip to Antietam is sold out, and our October trip to Fredericksburg is filling up fast. **We're on a roll!**

We've managed to attract six new members in the middle of a pandemic, no easy task. We've welcomed into our ranks Tom Hendrix, Mark Blanchard, Dr. Chris Keller (our December speaker), Brian Foster, Nicholas Klimowicz, and Adam Priestly. The talent and enthusiasm these new members bring to the table are just what we need to kick off our next campaign.

But wait, there's more! We will close out Campaign 62 on Friday, June 11 with a bang at our annual business meeting, where our committee chairs will present reports and we will hold elections, before turning the floor over to NPS Ranger Bert Dunkerly who will give us his perspective on the battle of Cold Harbor, one of the bloodiest Union defeats of the Civil War. This is the third time we've scheduled Bert to give this talk. The first time he was snowed in, the second time the pandemic caused us to cancel, and this time, we had to switch to Zoom. Let's show our support for this speaker, and for our organization, by coming out in large numbers for Campaign 62's grand finale. Please invite your friends, family, and colleagues to join us on Zoom!

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, 2021. As this newsletter goes to press, the trip has sold out. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Norm Daniels at 717-712-7494 or at nld500@aol.com and ask him to put you on the waiting list, which is "first come, first served." On past trips, we were able to accommodate almost everyone on the waiting list. Here is the link to the Antietam flyer: <https://harrisburgcwrt.org/events/field-trip-antietam/>

Our second field trip of the fall, to Fredericksburg with guide Chris Mackowski, will take place on Saturday, October 23. Half the seats for this trip have already been reserved, 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 being due not later than September 23, 2021. Here is the link to the Fredericksburg flyer: <https://harrisburgcwrt.org/events/field-trip-fredericksburg-va/>

Annual Business Meeting & Elections

As part of our annual business meeting on Friday, June 11, we will hold elections for two officer positions and one position on our board of directors. We have excellent candidates for all three positions. Norm Daniels and Ed Hicks have indicated they are willing to stay on in their current positions as Treasurer and Secretary, providing critically needed institutional memory. Mark Blanchard, who joined our Round Table in December, has indicated a willingness to serve a six-year term as a Director, replacing Rick Eiserman, whose term ends in June. Mark serves as Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education for the Cumberland Valley School District, and was the principal of Cumberland Valley High School and Gettysburg High School prior to that. He has a Doctorate of Education from George Washington University. His administrative skills and educational background equip him well to advise the Board on a host of issues, and carry on the good work of Rick Eiserman.

Rick served as the HCWRT's president from 1995 to 1996, and was our primary liaison with the CWRT Congress. He helped organize the CWRT Congress' convention at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg in the summer of 2018, a high-profile event the HCWRT co-hosted. A retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army who went on to teach at the Army War College, Rick was also a member of the Atlanta and Kansas City CWRTs, and brought a wealth of experience and insight to our Round Table. We are deeply grateful to Rick for his service.

Speaking of the National Civil War Museum, Wayne Motts, the museum's CEO and a long-time HCWRT member, has accepted a new position as President and CEO of the Gettysburg Foundation. We wish Wayne all the best in his new calling, and thank him for all the support he has given our Round Table over the years, and his prodigious efforts to make Harrisburg a mecca for students of the Civil War.

2021 CWRT Congress Conference Slated for September



The 2021 CWRT Congress Conference will take place September 17-19 in Blackwood, NJ, across the Delaware River from Philadelphia. This year's conference will be hosted by the Old Baldy CWRT, and will focus on sustainability of Civil War round tables. There will be presentations on History Day, recruiting college students, Historic Preservation Commissions, and marketing. The conference will also offer workshops on board organization, member retention, the post-pandemic "new normal," organizational change and culture, partnerships, press releases, succession planning, and targeted recruiting, among other topics.

For more information on the 2021 conference, click on: <https://cwrtcongress.org>

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

June 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 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: _____
