

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

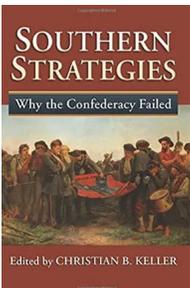
Online: harrisburgcwr.org

Thursday December 9 — Dr. Christian B. Keller *Confederate Catastrophes: Strategic Reasons for Southern Defeat*

Dr. Christian B. Keller earned his B.A. in History from Washington & Lee University in 1994 and his Ph.D. from Penn State in 2001, studying under both Gary W. Gallagher and Mark E. Neely. Since 2011, he has been Professor of History in the Department of National Security and Strategy at the United States Army War College in Carlisle where he teaches courses for senior leaders on the theory of war and strategy, national security policy and strategy, and the American Civil War. In 2017 he was named the General Dwight D. Eisenhower Chair of National Security, and in 2019 became the Director of the Military History Program for the school. Previously, he served as Professor of Military History for five and a half years at the Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Belvoir, VA, and has also taught at numerous civilian institutions, including Shippensburg University, Gettysburg College, Dickinson College, and Washington and Lee University. In 2001-2002, after completing his Ph.D., Dr. Keller was a Fulbright Professor of American History at the University of Jena, Germany.



Along with many scholarly articles focusing on strategic, operational, and ethnic topics in the Civil War, he is author of *The Great Partnership: Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and the Fate of the Confederacy* (Pegasus, 2019); author of *Chancellorsville and the Germans: Nativism, Ethnicity, and Civil War Memory* (Fordham, 2007); co-author of *Damn Dutch: Pennsylvania Germans at Gettysburg* (Stackpole/Rowman-Littlefield, 2004); co-author of *The Civil War: A Visual History* (Dorling-Kindersley/Smithsonian Institution, 2011); and co-author of *Pennsylvania: A Military History* (Westholme, 2016). His newest book, *Southern Strategies: Why the Confederacy Failed* was published by the University Press of Kansas in June 2021, and will be the basis for his talk to our Round Table.



Why the Confederacy failed in its bid for independence has been a topic of debate since 1865. Generations of historians have argued about lapses in political and military leadership, defeat in key campaigns, the erosion of home front support, and other factors, but few have examined the phenomenon of rebel disaster in its totality at the strategic level of war. Utilizing classical and modern strategic theory as interpretative lenses, Dr. Keller will evaluate the critical diplomatic, informational, military, and economic mistakes that, when coupled with the Union's better strategic acumen and plain old-fashioned luck, resulted in the historical outcome.

Dr. Keller's next project, a new narrative of the Army of Northern Virginia based on dozens of previously unpublished wartime letters written by generals and staff officers, is currently in the final research phases with a prospective publication date in early 2024.

A native of Carlisle, Dr. Keller lives with his wife, Kelley, in an antebellum house that witnessed the occupation of Carlisle Barracks by Confederate troops at the end of June 1863.

Please join the meeting by 7:15 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. At the end of the meeting, click *Leave Meeting* button at the bottom right of the screen

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President's Pen

"These are the times that try men's souls..." — Thomas Paine

Turn out for our engagements this fall has fallen well short of what we hoped for after our membership voted overwhelmingly last spring to return to live dinner meetings for Campaign 63; we took that vote before the delta variant reared its ugly head and case numbers started to climb again. We had fewer attendees in October than in September and fewer in November than in October. Many of those who attended our dinner meetings were guests of members, while most of our members stayed home. As those who tried to tune in by Zoom for our November engagement discovered, the quality of the sound and picture when broadcasting from a hotel is subject to forces beyond our control. Zoom worked much better when we broadcast from a home computer as we did earlier this year.

While we gave live meetings a valiant try this fall, our Board of Directors has concluded that the risks of continuing such meetings at this time outweigh the benefits. The rising number of COVID-19 cases in Pennsylvania, uncertainty caused by the emerging omicron variant, and the prospect of another pandemic winter make it impossible for us to continue with live meetings for now. Beginning with our December engagement next week we will revert to virtual meetings using Zoom, as we did during Campaign 62, until the situation improves. We will reassess where we stand this spring.

Having said that, I hope you are as excited as I am about our December speaker. Dr. Christian Keller spoke to us last December via Zoom on his book about the great partnership between Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. Dr. Keller's talk went over so well he decided to join our Round Table. In the meantime, he has published a new book on Southern Strategies which will be the basis for his talk next week. This promises to be a very stimulating lecture and a great opportunity to engage in Q&A. Show your support for one of our own by clearing your calendar now for the evening of Thursday, December 9 and plan to join us via Zoom.

We will begin admitting participants to the "Zoom room" at 7:15, and ask that everyone tune in not later than 7:30. Here's the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86997810931>. No password is required. If you are dialing in to watch on your smart phone, the number to call is (301) 715-8592. The meeting ID number is 869 9781 0931. I will see you there!

Steve Smith

In Memoriam

Longtime Harrisburg CWRT member Kim Ledger, 77, died on November 22, of COVID-19. Kim performed yeoman service as our treasurer and continued to keep our fiscal house in order by subsequently serving as our auditor.

He leaves behind his widow, Gail, two sons, Kirk and Dana, and two grandchildren. Dana has been a member of our Round Table since he was a teenager.

Kim's obituary is at the following link:

<https://www.hetrickbitnerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Kim-Ledger?obld=23203355#/celebrationWall>

Kim served this organization loyally and well during the 35 years he was a member and officer, and he leaves big shoes to fill. He will be greatly missed. Please keep his cherished family in your thoughts and prayers.



Meeting Schedule—Campaign 63

1/21/22

Writing About Antietam

D. Scott Hartwig

2/18/22

Gettysburg's Rebel Commissioner:

Life & Legacy of William Robbins

Christopher Gwinn

3/18/22

Educational Programs at Gettysburg

Barbara Sanders

4/15/22

Gen. Robert E. Lee, The Army of Northern Virginia and the 1865 Guerrilla War

Option Revisited

Dr. Barton Myers

5/20/22

At the Cannon's Mouth: Battlefield Relics & the Making of Civil War Memory

Dr. James Broomall

6/9/22 (Thursday) — Nye-Sommers Lecture

Meade at Gettysburg: A Study in Command

Kent Masterson Brown

Spring Field Trip to Mosby's Confederacy

The Harrisburg and Hershey CWRTs will team up again on Saturday, May 14, 2022 to sponsor a field trip to the hunt country in and around Loudoun County, VA, to chase the gray ghost of Colonel John S. Mosby, whose unconventional guerilla tactics tormented and terrorized Union troops during the Civil War.



Guides for this trip will be Dennis Frye (who unlocked the secrets of Harpers Ferry for us in 2019 and the shadows of Antietam in 2021) and Richard Gillespie (who led us through Leesburg on a field trip a few years ago). Both are back by popular demand.

Cost of the trip is \$95.00 per person. To reserve a seat, contact our treasurer, Norm Daniels, at 717-712-7494 or nld500@aol.com and ask him to reserve you a seat. Send a check made out to "HCWRT" for the \$25.00 deposit to Norm at 500 Bonnymead Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17111. The \$70.00 balance is not due until April 14.

Given the popularity of the guides, the novelty of the topic, the gorgeous scenery, and the success of our recent fall field trips to Antietam and Fredericksburg, this trip is filling up fast, so *don't delay, register today!*

As was the case with our fall field trips in 2021, all participants will be required to provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 before boarding the bus.

Membership Dues & Donations

If you have yet to reenlist for Campaign 63, you can use the form on the back of this newsletter or the one on our website: <https://harrisburgcwr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/HCWRT-Enlistment-Form-FINAL.pdf>.

Generous monetary donations from our members helped us get through Campaign 62. Congress has doubled the amount joint filers can take as an adjustment to income on their federal income tax returns from \$300 in 2020 to \$600 in 2021, so there has never been a better time to invest in the future of our Round Table. **Donations must be made no later than December 31, 2021 to qualify for this special tax break.** If you receive a year-end required minimum distribution (RMD) from an IRA or 401K account, you might consider donating some of it to our Round Table. We will put the money to good use.

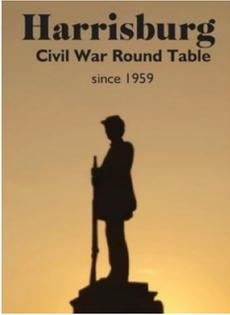
For more information, contact our Membership Chair, Don Madar, at krivan12@gmail.com or (814) 397-0072.



Merry Christmas



Our proud veterans "joined ranks" in front of our new banner at the November engagement



The Dispatch

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

December 2021

130th PA Monument
Antietam National
Battlefield

NOTE!
Meeting is Thursday
this month

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Where we discuss our past, emphasizing remembrance, education & preservation. **All Are Welcome!**

Meetings will be held virtually on Zoom until further notice.

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: _____