

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

NOTE: The meeting is one week later than usual

Friday, January 28 — D. Scott Hartwig
Writing About Antietam

D. Scott Hartwig retired in 2014 as the supervisory park historian at Gettysburg National Military Park after a 34-year career in the National Park Service, nearly all of it spent at Gettysburg. He won the NPS regional Freeman Tilden Award for excellence in interpretation in 1993, and played a critical role in developing Gettysburg's on-site-interpretation and living history programming, and distance and satellite education efforts. He was a key player in designing all aspects of Gettysburg's new museum/visitor center.

Mr. Hartwig is the author of *To Antietam Creek: The Maryland Campaign from September 3 to September 16*, published in September 2012 by Johns Hopkins University Press, and is currently working on its sequel, tentatively titled, *I Dread The Thought of the Place: The Battle of Antietam*, which covers the battle and end of the Maryland Campaign of 1862. He has also authored numerous articles, essays, and other books on the Civil War, and has appeared on the History Channel, Discovery Channel and Pennsylvania Cable Network.

Mr. Hartwig will share insights he gained in the course of his research and writing, and will re-examine, among other things, the complicated relationship between President Lincoln and General George B. McClellan.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86090597654>

Meeting ID: 860 9059 7654 [Password not required]

Or call 1-301-715-8592

(if you are not local, click link below for your call in number)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86090597654>



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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*"Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me Abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me."*

The new year began on a tragic note for the Smith family. I lost my mother, Virginia, on January 6. <https://obits.pennlive.com/us/obituaries/pennlive/name/virginia-smith-obituary?id=32201525>

Our January engagement was originally scheduled for Friday, January 21, but the only day we could schedule my mother's funeral was Saturday, January 22. Since we have reverted to virtual meetings on Zoom and I host those sessions from my home computer, we pushed our meeting back one week to Friday, January 28, to allow me enough time to prepare for her funeral. Our speaker, Scott Hartwig, was most accommodating.

Following the death of my father in 2015, I decided to retire early from my job as an attorney for the US Army in Germany and move to Hershey so I could take better care of my mother. I have no regrets about that decision. Were it not for her, I would probably still be overseas and have never enjoyed the intellectual stimulation and camaraderie I found when I joined the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table. In more ways than one, my mother was the reason I am here.

I spent an inordinate amount of time in the emergency room waiting areas at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in early January. The omicron surge has overwhelmed the staff there. It was like a scene out of Dante's Inferno. That experience underscored the wisdom of our board's decision to go back to holding meetings on Zoom until this pandemic subsides. All I can say is get vaccinated, get boosted, mask up, and don't take any unnecessary risks. Let us pray that this too shall pass.

I also received word last week that we lost Dr. Dave Blahna under even more tragic circumstances last October, just three days before he was scheduled to join us on our fall field trip to Fredericksburg. I will never forget how Dave pointed out at one of our square table sessions that protections we have come to expect under the law of war, which is international by its very nature, do not apply in civil wars, which are the worst kind of wars, pitting fellow citizens against one another, brother against brother. We all learned a lot from Dave. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers, and his warning about civil wars in the back of your mind.

We can also learn a great deal from our January speaker. Coming as it does on the heels of our memorable September 11 field trip to Antietam, Scott Hartwig's talk on "Writing About Antietam" could not be more timely. Scott is putting the finishing touches to his second magnum opus on the battle, and will share valuable insights he acquired in the process of researching and writing those works. Be there!

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/86090597654>. 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 860 9059 7654. I will see you then, same time, same station, just one week later than previously announced. Thanks for your understanding.

Steve Smith

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 63

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

In Memoriam

Dr. David Blahna, 1946-2021



Longtime Harrisburg CWRT member Dr. David Blahna, 74, died on October 20 of injuries sustained near his home when a driver stuck him while he was crossing a busy road in front of Rossmoyne Elementary School. Efforts to revive him were unavailing. He left behind a wife and two sons.

Dave was a regular attendee at our engagements and on our field trips, and could always be counted on to ask insightful questions at our square table sessions. He will be greatly missed.

Dave's obituary is at the following link: <https://obits.pennlive.com/us/obituaries/pennlive/name/david-mph-obituary?id=31173813>

More information can be found at: <https://www.pennlive.com/news/2021/11/after-man-is-killed-crossing-road-central-pa-township-looks-for-safety-improvements.html>

Dave left his library to the Camp Curtin Historical Society. They will sponsor a book sale at the National Civil War Museum on Sunday, February 27. It will take place following a talk by Codie Eash of the Seminar Ridge Museum on the role that the Lutheran Seminary played in the battle of Gettysburg. The talk begins at 2:00 pm and is free and open to the public. For more details, contact Jim Schmick at the Civil War & More bookstore in Mechanicsburg.

Donations to the Harrisburg CWRT have been made in memory of

**John S. Wade, Revere Ployer,
Mary Jane Webb Ployer Cooper and Everett W. Cooper**

North & South Magazine

This excellent magazine has emerged from the pandemic with some great issues and is finally back in circulation. Magazine subscription information is supplied courtesy of Keith Poulter, Publisher. Here is the link to their website to get your subscription started. <https://northandsouthmag.com>.

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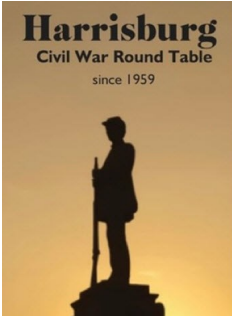
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The Dispatch

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

January 2022

130th PA Monument
Antietam National
Battlefield

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later this month

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Meetings will be held virtually on Zoom until further notice.

Online: harrisburgcwr.org



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