

Newsletter of The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

Welcome to our fellowship forum where we discuss our past, emphasizing remembrance, education & preservation.

Meetings held at Central Penn College Conference Center and virtually on Zoom

January 20 — Dr. Christian B. Keller

Toward a Theory of War for Robert E. Lee: New Archival Evidence

Join us as Army War College professor and Harrisburg CWRT member Dr. Christian B. Keller shares the results of his latest research on General Robert E. Lee.

Lee has come under a great deal of revised scrutiny in recent years. Was he a superb military leader or just lucky? Was he a traitor or reluctant hero? What should his legacy be? In this presentation, based on new archival evidence, Dr. Keller will make the case that the title of "military theorist" should definitely be added to Lee's many descriptors, regardless of how one interprets him as a man or general.

Dr. Keller is the author of many scholarly articles focusing on strategic, operational, and ethnic topics in the Civil War. He is the author of [*Chancellorsville and the Germans: Nativism, Ethnicity, and Civil War Memory*](#), co-author of [*Damn Dutch: Pennsylvania Germans at Gettysburg*](#), and co-author of [*Pennsylvania: A Military History*](#). He was also a major contributor to the Smithsonian Institution's [*The Civil War: A Visual History*](#). Dr. Keller's book, [*The Great Partnership: Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and the Fate of the Confederacy*](#) won the 2020 Douglas Southall Freeman History Award and was a finalist for the 2019 Gilder Lehrman Prize for Military History. His most recent book, an edited collection of essays authored by Army War College colleagues and former students, entitled [*Southern Strategies: Why the Confederacy Failed*](#), was published by the University Press of Kansas in 2021.

Since 2011, Dr. Keller has been Professor of History in the Department of National Security and Strategy at the United States Army War College, 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.

Those who are unable to attend this engagement in person are invited to tune in to the lecture and Q&A session via Zoom. Click on the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89553107735>. No password is required. To dial in by phone call 1-301-715-8592 or click the following link for your call-in number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89553107735>. The meeting ID # is 895 5310 7735.



Zoom participants should join the meeting by 7:30 pm.

Attending On Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89553107735>

Meeting ID: 895 5310 7735 [Password not required]

Or local call: 1-301-715-8592

For a non-local call in number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89553107735>



Buffet Dinner Selections

Orange Beef Satay, Cajun Salmon, Olive Oil Roasted Potatoes, Stir Fried Vegetables, Classic Caesar Salad, House-made Soup du Jour, Assorted cookies, Rolls and Butter, Drinks

Cost: \$24 per person (pay at the door)

Dinner reservations must be made no later than noon on Monday, January 16

Phone: Brian Foster at 717-962-6122 or

Email: hcwrt.membership@gmail.com



Executive Officers

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*"Every day in every way, we get better and better."
—Émile Coué*



Happy New Year! As we look forward to our first engagement of 2023, we have much to be thankful for. We are thankful that we were able to return to live meetings for Campaign 64, while continuing to reach out via Zoom to those who cannot attend in person. We're thankful to the staff of Central Penn College, who have bent over backwards to provide us with a much-improved venue for our meetings, delicious food, and robust A/V and Zoom capability. We're grateful to all who have come out in person to break bread with us and help preserve the HCWRT dinner-meeting tradition that sets us apart, and to the wonderful speakers who have provided such stimulating talks while keeping our square table tradition alive. We are particularly grateful to our speakers, including HCWRT members Mark Blanchard and Cooper Wingert, who drew on their own personal experience and research to deepen our understanding of the Civil War.

Looking ahead to 2023, we have another opportunity to hear from one of our own members when Army War College professor Dr. Christian B. Keller provides us with cutting-edge insights based on new archival evidence he recently discovered. I urge all our members to come out on January 20 to support our speaker and hear what he has discovered about Robert E. Lee and his theory of war. You will not be disappointed!

Sadly, we lost three pillars of our organization in December. Please keep the families of **Willis Kocher**, **Dick Simpson**, and **Graeme Goodsir** in your prayers. Let us take inspiration from the example they set with their steadfast support of our Round Table and all its activities. Make a New Year's resolution to carry on their good work with our Round Table and ensure it survives for many years to come.

I look forward to seeing you and your guests at our January engagement!

John West



Willis Kocher on our 2019 field trip to Harpers Ferry



Graeme Goodsir celebrating the HCWRT's 60th Anniversary in 2019



Dick Simpson portraying Vermont's Civil War era Governor Franklin Holbrook during Civil War Days

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 64

2/17/23

Reel History: Black Troops in Civil War Cinema
Jared T. Frederick

3/17/23

Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Antietam and Gettysburg Campaigns
Dr. Bradley M. Gottfried

4/14/23

July 1, 1863: What Did Reynolds Know and When Did He Know It?
James A. Hessler

5/19/23

Copperheads and Draft Resistance in PA During the Civil War
Dr. Robert M. Sandow

6/8/23 (THURSDAY) — Nye-Sommers Lecture

Lee's Army After Appomattox
Dr. Caroline Janney, winner of the prestigious Gilder-Lehrman Lincoln Prize

Spring Field Trip to Chancellorsville

Our spring field trip to Chancellorsville, VA will take place on Saturday, May 6, 2023. What better way to commemorate the 160th anniversary of “Lee’s Greatest Battle” than to have Chris Mackowski guide us through the Chancellorsville battlefield?



The flyer for this field trip is posted in the Events section of our website, and can be accessed by clicking this link: <https://harrisburgcwrt.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Chancellorsville-2023-Field-Trip-Flyer.pdf>. Cost of the trip per person remains what it has always been—\$95.00. If you’d like to join us on this trip, print a copy of the flyer, fill out the registration form at the bottom, and mail it to our treasurer, Norm Daniels, at 500

Bonnymead Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17111, along with a check for \$25.00 to hold your seat. The \$70.00 balance is not due until April 6.

The trip is filling up fast. *Don’t delay, register today!*

CHANCELLORSVILLE 1863

Looking for a New Treasurer & Fundraising Chair

Norm Daniels’ tenure as our Treasurer is coming to an end in June. We’re actively looking for a replacement for Norm, who plays a critical role in our organization. The future of our popular field trip program depends on filling this position. We’d like to identify that replacement before June to allow for a period of cross-training.

We’re also looking for someone to assist with fundraising, to include the sale of books, magazine, prints, and other in-kind donations at our monthly engagements. The funds we raise helps support battlefield preservation.



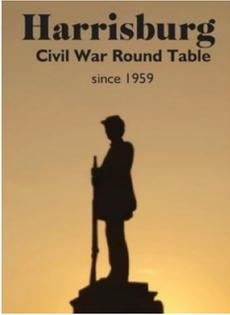
Upcoming Events



- ◆ The **Winter Lecture Series** at Gettysburg National Military Park resumes Saturday, January 7 at 1:30 pm, and continues every Saturday and Sunday through the end of February (with the exception of Sunday, February 12). For a complete list of speakers and topics, please go to <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/gettysburg-winter-programs.htm>

- ◆ **Saturday, January 28** – National Civil War Museum – 1:00 pm. Peter Miele, who was our October 2022 speaker, will present a lecture on *A Scene of So Much Sorrow and Anguish: Gettysburg’s Humanitarian Crisis*.

We have a wide variety of books, magazines, and prints for sale at our January engagement.



The Dispatch

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

January 2023

130th PA Monument
Antietam National
Battlefield

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Where we discuss our past, emphasizing remembrance, education & preservation. **All Are Welcome**
Meetings are held at Central Penn College Conference Center, 600 Valley Road, Summerdale, PA



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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 _____
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Contacts:

For questions call: Brian Foster, Membership, Phone: 717-962-6122, 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: _____