

**Harrisburg-Hershey Civil War Round Table Field Trips**  
**The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, Spotsylvania, Virginia**

Saturday, May 4, 2024 ~ \$95.00 pp ~ Depart: Lower Dauphin High School 6:00 AM ~ Camp Hill Shopping Center 6:30 AM

Please join the **Harrisburg and Hershey Civil War Round Tables** on Saturday, May 4, 2024 as we visit Spotsylvania, Virginia, the site of the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, which witnessed some of the most intense hand-to-hand combat of the Civil War. Our visit will coincide with the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle, which was fought May 8-21, 1864.

To those who were there, this tumultuous battle embodied all the horrors of civil war. After the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-7, 1864, both the Union and Confederate armies raced south toward the vital crossroads at Spotsylvania Court House, which controlled the most direct route to Richmond. Lee arrived first on May 8 and narrowly beat back Union attackers. Confederates built a bulging line they called the “Mule Shoe” salient. Union attacks tested the Confederate line for several days.



On May 12, Grant struck the tip of the Mule Shoe and broke through. Lee’s Confederates counterattacked, and for the next 22 hours the two sides locked in the war’s most intense hand-to-hand and close combat. This desperate fighting raged over a bend in the Confederate trenches called the “Bloody Angle.” Lee bought enough time to build a new line of earthworks, which he held until Grant abandoned the field on May 21.

At Spotsylvania, Grant sought a decisive battlefield victory, but Lee skillfully denied him. Still, the Federals’ constant hammering took its toll on dwindling Confederate resources. What began in the Wilderness and Spotsylvania continued on to the North Anna River, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and finally Appomattox Court House.

**Recommended reading:** [A Season of Slaughter: The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, May 8-21, 1864](#), by Chris Mackowski and Kristopher D. White. [Traces of the Bloody Struggle: The Civil War at Stevenson Ridge, Spotsylvania Court House](#), by Chris Mackowski. [The Battles for Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern, May 7-12, 1864](#), by Gordon C. Rhea. [To The North Anna River, Grant & Lee, May 13-25, 1864](#), by Gordon C. Rhea. [The Maps of Spotsylvania through Cold Harbor](#), by Bradley M. Gottfried. [The Heart of Hell: The Soldiers’ Struggle for Spotsylvania’s Bloody Angle](#), by Jeffrey D. Wert. [If It Takes All Summer: The Battle of Spotsylvania](#), by William D. Matter. [The Spotsylvania Campaign](#), edited by Gary W. Gallagher.

**OUR GUIDE:** Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is the editor-in-chief and co-founder of Emerging Civil War and the series editor of the award-winning [Emerging Civil War Series](#), published by Savas Beatie. Chris is a writing professor in the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY, where he also serves as associate dean for undergraduate programs. Chris is also historian-in-residence at [Stevenson Ridge](#), a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield in central Virginia. He has worked as a historian for the National Park Service at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields. Chris has authored or co-authored nearly two dozen books and edited a half-dozen essay collections on the Civil War, and his articles have appeared in all the major Civil War magazines. Chris serves as vice president on the board of directors for the [Central Virginia Battlefields Trust](#), he serves on the advisory board of the [Civil War Roundtable Congress](#) and the Brunswick (NC) Civil War Roundtable—the largest in the country. He is also a member of the Antietam Institute and the U. S. Grant Homestead Association. In 2023, he was named the [Copie Hill Fellow at the American Battlefield Trust](#). He is widely celebrated for his highly informative and inspirational presentations. Chris guided our group on our field trips to the Wilderness in the fall of 2019, to Fredericksburg in the fall of 2021, and to Chancellorsville in the spring of 2023. He is back by popular demand!

**REGISTRATION FORM**

The price of this field trip is \$95.00 per person. This includes round-trip motor-coach transportation, lunch, driver tip, guide honoraria and entrance fees. To register, complete the form below and mail to: **Steve Williamson, Harrisburg CWRT, 121 Windrush Lane, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-9236**. Your \$25.00 deposit will hold your seat with the \$70.00 balance due not later than April 4, 2024. Cancellations received before April 4, 2024 will receive a full refund. Cancellations after April 4th will receive a refund ONLY if the open seats have been filled. **Make checks payable to: HCWRT**. Questions: contact Steve Smith at 717-433-0209 or email: [smith337@erau.edu](mailto:smith337@erau.edu), Ricky Hollis at 717-805-7502 or email: [rickyhollissr@gmail.com](mailto:rickyhollissr@gmail.com), or Steve Williamson at 717-580-0443 or email: [steve.williamson.WCCS@outlook.com](mailto:steve.williamson.WCCS@outlook.com).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City-ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ # of seats: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pick-up point (check one):** [ ] Lower Dauphin High School, Hummelstown at 6:00 am [ ] Camp Hill Shopping Center at 6:30 am