

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

#CWR7 Launches Its 65th Campaign Year

By any measure, our 64th campaign year was a smashing success. Our choice of Central Penn College as our new venue a year ago worked out splendidly. The quality of the food, the excellent A/V equipment, and the supportiveness of the staff turned each engagement into an uplifting experience. We're pleased to report that we will be returning to Central Penn for Campaign 65.

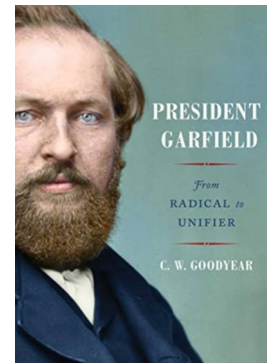
The big event for the coming campaign is our 65th anniversary banquet, which will take place on **Friday, May 17, 2024**. Mark your calendars now and plan to come celebrate with us. Our Vice-President, Mark Blanchard, will serve as coordinator for this event and welcomes your assistance and suggestions on how to make it a night to remember.

C.W. Goodyear, author of a new biography on the life of President Garfield, has accepted our invitation to be our anniversary speaker. Goodyear appeared on the Gilder-Lehrman Book Breaks program in July, was interviewed by National Civil War Museum CEO Jeffrey Nichols at the Midtown Scholar bookstore and by GEN (Ret.) Stanley McCrystal at the Politics & Prose bookstore in Washington, DC, and has also appeared on "Amanpour & Company" on PBS. His biography of Garfield is a runaway best-seller that has received wide critical acclaim. Mr. Goodyear will focus on how Garfield became one of the youngest Union Generals in the Civil War and one of the most effective members of Congress, before being elected President in 1880. We're looking forward to a stimulating presentation and spirited Q&A.

Stay tuned! More details on our anniversary banquet will appear in future editions of this newsletter.



C.W. Goodyear with Jeffrey Nichols in the Midtown Scholar bookstore in July.



#CWR7 Board of Directors Meeting Results

Our Board held its spring meeting on Saturday, June 17.

Steve Williamson replaced Norm Daniels as Treasurer, and Frank Mroczka replaced Steve Williamson as Secretary. Norm replaced Greg Hillebrand as a Director and Ed Hicks as Preservation Chair.

The Board voted to begin our engagements for Campaign 65 a half hour earlier to encourage more members to attend our square table sessions. The new schedule is as follows:

- 5:30 pm Doors Open
- 6:15 pm Meeting called to order; dinner begins
- 7:15 pm Announcements
- 7:30 pm Speaker's Presentation and Q&A
- 8:30 pm Square Table

The Board also voted to raise the cost of dinners from \$24.00 to \$26.00, to keep up with increasing food prices.

Executive Officers

President, John West
john@johnwest.com

Vice President, Mark Blanchard
almvp1980@gmail.com

Treasurer, Steve Williamson
secretary@harrisburgcwr.org

Secretary, Frank Mroczka
jaguar7266@yahoo.com

Web Links (CTRL + click)

harrisburgcwr.org

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harrisburgcwr.org/events/

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Norm Daniels

Dana Ledger

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Audit, Joe Boslet

Communications/PR, Todd Little

Field Trips, Steve Smith

Membership, Brian Foster

Newsletter, Tracy Sommers

Nominating, Steve Smith

Preservation, Norm Daniels

Programs, Steve Smith

Webmaster, Dana Ledger

President's Pen

"This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

– Winston Churchill



I hope everyone is enjoying a pleasant summer break after our successful 64th campaign year. While we have no engagements in July or August, we have been very busy getting ready for Campaign 65.

Our programs chair has been booking world-class speakers for the coming year. Here are a few "previews of coming attractions:"

- Dan Welch, a seasonal park ranger at Gettysburg and the editor of Gettysburg Magazine, kicks off our campaign on Friday, September 15 with a riveting account of how Brigadier General George Sears Greene's brigade heroically defended Culp's Hill against relentless attacks by superior numbers of Confederate forces on July 2, 1863. Mr. Welch gave a spell-binding talk on this topic at Sacred Trust on July 2, 2023 and has agreed to do an encore performance for us. We aim to start off with a bang!
- Author Scott L. Mingus, Sr., follows up on Friday, October 13 with a detailed examination of the whereabouts of Cavalry Commander J.E.B. Stuart before and during the Battle of Gettysburg, with a focus on what slowed him down in York and Cumberland counties. Mr. Mingus will also be our guide in November for our fall field trip to study the Second Battle of Winchester, which opened the door for Lee's army to invade the North. See the field trip article on page 3.
- In honor of Black History Month, Gettysburg Park Ranger John D. Hoptak will regale us on Friday, February 16, 2024 with an account of the large number of African-Americans from South Central Pennsylvania who joined the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, the unit depicted in the epic motion picture, "Glory." Mr. Hoptak will literally put the identities and the fate of these gallant soldiers in your hands!
- Our big event of the year will be our 65th Anniversary Banquet, which will take place on May 17, 2024. See our cover story.

Our Round Table is sending a five-member delegation to the CWRT Congress' Sustainability Conference in Gettysburg the last week-end of August. Steve Smith has been invited to participate in a panel discussion to kick off the conference, where he will share some of the techniques we used to survive the pandemic and emerge stronger than we were before. Mark Blanchard will serve as a docent at a special tour of the Spangler Farm for conference participants on Sunday. This is a great opportunity for us to network and raise the profile of our Round Table nationwide.

So, there is much to look forward to in Campaign 65. Mostly, I look forward to seeing you at our engagements, and to sharing the fellowship and camaraderie that are the hallmarks of our Round Table.

John West

A Donation to the Harrisburg CWRT has been made in memory of
Suzanne Sweatlock Gumpert

Recruiting!

Carlisle Barracks Community Expo

Building on the enormous success of our membership drive during Campaign 64, we have been busy this summer recruiting more new members. Our Round Table was well-represented at the Carlisle Barracks Community Expo on August 9.

Custer Symposium

We will do additional recruiting at the National Civil War Museum's Custer Symposium on August 12. Remember our motto: *"every member is a recruiter!"* You can help us by inviting your friends and neighbors to join us this fall.



At Carlisle Barracks Community Expo

Membership Dues & Donations

All HCWRT members are encouraged to reenlist for Campaign 65 by the end of October. If you have already done so, many thanks. If you have yet to "re-up," you can use the form on the back of this newsletter or the one at the bottom of the membership page on our website: <https://harrisburgcwrt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/HCWRT-Enlistment-Form-6.28.2023.pdf>

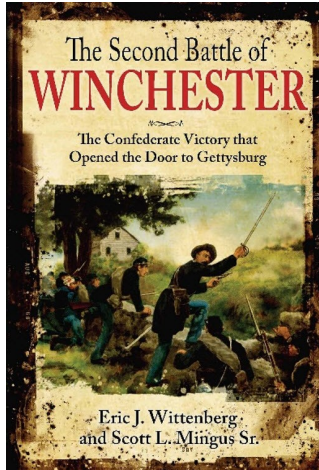
If you are in a position to make a donation, in addition to paying your dues, please consider doing so. The generosity of our members got us through recent campaigns, enabling us to defray the costs associated with Zoom technology, honoraria, travel & lodging for speakers, publicity, and battlefield preservation. For more information, contact Brian Foster, our Membership Chair, at hcwrt.membership@gmail.com or (717) 962-6122.

Campaign 65 Field Trips Filling Up Fast

The Harrisburg and Hershey CWRTs will team up again to sponsor exceptional field trips during Campaign 65.

Saturday, November 4, 2023

Our first trip is to Winchester, VA, to study the Second Battle of Winchester, a devastating Union defeat that opened the door for Lee's 1863 invasion of Pennsylvania.



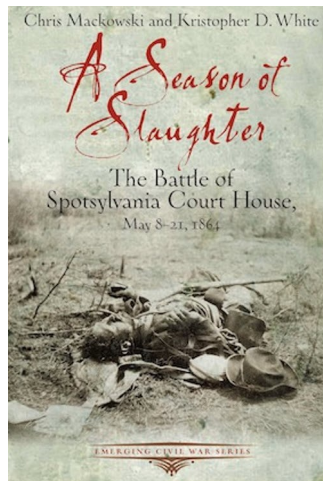
Our guide will be Scott L. Mingus, Sr., co-author of the leading book on the battle.

Saturday, May 4, 2024

On our second trip, we will head south again to study one of the hardest-fought battles of the Overland Campaign of 1864, at Spotsylvania Court House.

Chris Mackowski, who served as our guide to the Wilderness, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville, is back by popular demand.

Our visit will coincide with the 160th anniversary of the Spotsylvania battle.



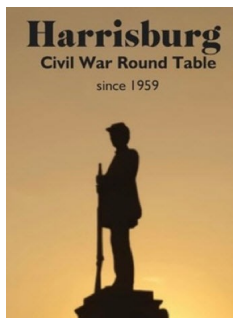
The cost of each trip is \$95.00 per person. To reserve a seat, download the flyer for each trip from the Events page of the Harrisburg CWRT website: <https://harrisburgcwrt.org/events>. Fill it out and mail the registration form to our Treasurer, Steve Williamson, at the address on the flyer with a check for \$25.00 to hold your seat. The \$70.00 balance is due a month prior to each trip. You can also book on the website using PayPal.

To date, 33 field trippers have signed up for Winchester, and 28 for the Spotsylvania. The bus only holds 55, and remaining seats are likely to go fast, so . . . ***Don't delay, register today!***

Update on Battlefield Preservation

Battlefield preservation remains an important part of our Round Table's mission and we take it seriously. At our Board of Directors meeting on June 17, Norm Daniels briefed the Board on various opportunities to support battlefield preservation through the American Battlefield Trust. The Board voted to send \$1,000 to help save one of the last unprotected parcels of land at Antietam, with a 2-to-1 match. The 20-acre parcel includes the Jacob Avey farmhouse. The Elliott burial map indicates Confederate soldiers were buried on the land.

It's never too late to save a piece of our history, until it is.



130th PA Monument
Antietam National
Battlefield

The Dispatch

The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table
121 Windrush Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-9236

August 2023

The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

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 _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Contacts:

For questions call: Brian Foster, Membership, Phone: 717-962-6122, email hcwrt.membership@gmail.com

Mail checks to: Steve Williamson, Treasurer, Phone 717-580-0443, 121 Windrush Lane, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-9236

If your donation is made in memory or in recognition of someone, please provide name(s) here: _____