

## 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

Friday, November 10—Cooper H. Wingert

### "Our Name Would Go Down in Undying Fame": Forgotten Black Companies that Defended Harrisburg and Integrated Pennsylvania's Militia

Join us on Friday, November 10, for a special salute to our veterans, as we honor the memory of those who defended Pennsylvania's capital city during 1863.

Historians often maintain that no African American combatants participated in the Gettysburg Campaign. However, HCWRT member and historian Cooper H. Wingert will share new archival research revealing how two Black companies organized in Harrisburg integrated Pennsylvania's militia system just three days before the Battle of Gettysburg. By the time Lee's army entered Pennsylvania, many Black Harrisburgers had already left for Boston to enlist in the 54th Massachusetts Infantry (the subject of our February talk by John D. Hoptak). Mr. Wingert will explain why other Black Harrisburgers opted *not* to enlist in Massachusetts, and instead organized to defend Pennsylvania's capital from the Confederate army.



Mr. Wingert is the author of 12 books and numerous articles. His book *The Confederate Approach on Harrisburg* received the 2012 Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Prize for the best work in the field of Confederate history—military, political and social.

Mr. Wingert graduated *summa cum laude* from Dickinson College in 2020, and is pursuing a PhD in history at Georgetown University. He is currently studying at State College as a Predoctoral Fellow in the History of the Civil War Era at the Richards Center at Penn State University. His presentation is based on a brand-new article, and new research findings, that appeared in the September 2023 issue of *Civil War History* entitled "Fighting for State Citizenship in the U.S. Colored Troops." This marks the fifth time he has addressed our Round Table.



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/89733930929>. 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/89733930929>. The meeting ID # is 897 3393 0929.

**Zoom participants should join the meeting by 7:00 pm.**

#### DINNER IS SERVED!

5:30 pm—Refreshments  
6:15 pm—Dinner

7:15 pm—Announcements  
7:30 pm—Presentation

#### Buffet Dinner Selections

Chicken Caprese, Citrus Salmon, Smashed Yukon Gold Potatoes, Sugar Peas and Julienne Carrots, Mixed Field Greens, House-made Soup du Jour, Brownies

Cost: \$26 per person

pay at the door or on our website: [harrisburgcwrt.org/events](https://harrisburgcwrt.org/events)

**Dinner reservations must be made no later than  
noon on Monday, November 6**

Phone: Brian Foster at 717-962-6122 or  
Email: [hcwrt.membership@gmail.com](mailto:hcwrt.membership@gmail.com)



#### Executive Officers

**President**, John West  
[john@johnfwest.com](mailto:john@johnfwest.com)

**Vice President**, Mark Blanchard  
[almvp1980@gmail.com](mailto:almvp1980@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**, Steve Williamson  
[steve.williamson.wccs@outlook.com](mailto:steve.williamson.wccs@outlook.com)

**Secretary**, Frank Mroczka  
[jaguar7266@yahoo.com](mailto:jaguar7266@yahoo.com)

#### Web Links (CTRL + click)

[harrisburgcwrt.org](https://harrisburgcwrt.org)

**Register For:**

MEMBERSHIP

[harrisburgcwrt.org/membership/](https://harrisburgcwrt.org/membership/)

FIELD TRIPS

[harrisburgcwrt.org/events/](https://harrisburgcwrt.org/events/)

#### Directors

Mo Becker

Joe Boslet

Norm Daniels

Dana Ledger

Don Madar

Tracy Sommers

#### Standing Committees

**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

*"Nothing is ever lost to us as long as we remember it."*

—E. M. Montgomery

Last fall, on the occasion of Veterans Day, the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table invited current and former service members to join us for a free dinner. The turnout was so encouraging, we've decided to do that again this year for our upcoming engagement on Friday, November 10. All we ask is that you inform our membership chair, Brian Foster, not later than noon on Monday, November 6, that you intend to come for dinner, and identify yourself as a veteran. Brian can be reached at [hcvrt.membership@gmail.com](mailto:hcvrt.membership@gmail.com) or 717-962-6122.



Veterans are encouraged to wear their decorations to this event, as part of our salute to those who have worn the nation's cloth. In keeping with the theme of recognizing veterans, our speaker will be our own Cooper H. Wingert, who will be shedding new light on the how Black soldiers organized companies to come to the defense of the Commonwealth in 1863. Cooper has been a member of our Round Table since he was 12. I urge all our members to come out and show their support for one of our own.

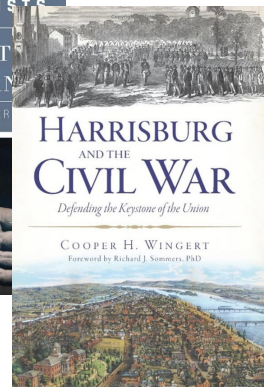
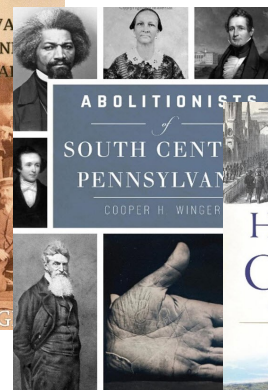
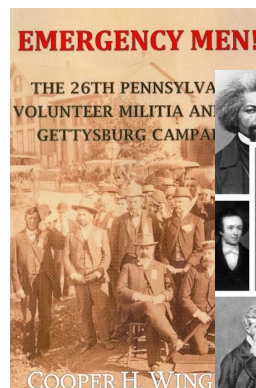
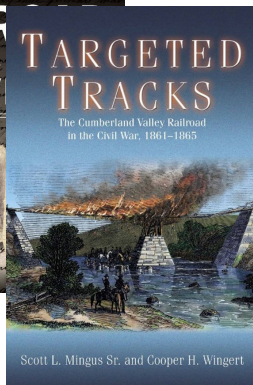
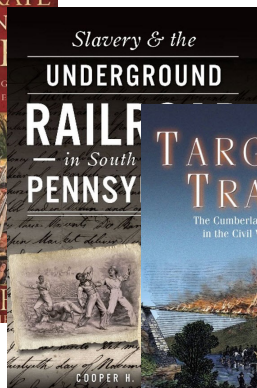
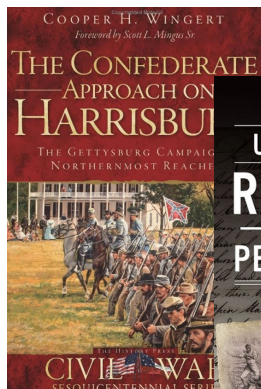
If you missed Scott Mingus' captivating presentation on J.E.B. Stuart's wild ride through York County at our October engagement, you'll have another opportunity to hear from him on Saturday, November 4. He will be guiding our fall field trip to study the Second Battle of Winchester. Seats are still available. See page 3 for more details. Don't miss this chance to learn more from such a prolific and entertaining Civil War author.

The best way for our members to show their support for our Round Table is to come out for dinner. I ask those who have not been to a meeting in a while to give us another look. And I encourage all of our members to invite friends, neighbors and colleagues to join us for an evening of superb dining, a stimulating lecture, and spirited Q&A. Please remember to RSVP through our website (utilizing PayPal) or by simply giving Brian Foster a call or sending him an email by noon on Monday, November 6. We look forward to a memorable and impactful evening on November 10 and hope you'll be a part of it. The smiles on the faces of those who attended our October engagement in the photo below tell you all you need to know.

John West



## Selection of Our Speaker's Books



## Seats Still Available for Campaign 65 Field Trips

### Second Winchester

As previously announced, the Harrisburg and Hershey CWRTs will team again on Saturday, November 4 to sponsor a field trip 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 and our October speaker. Lunch will be at the Golden Corral buffet!

As this newsletter went to press, there were still a dozen seats available on the bus. Anyone interested in taking part in this trip should call our Treasurer, Steve Williamson, at 717-580-0443 and ask him to hold a seat for you. You can either send Steve a check for the \$95 cost of the trip, or pay it on our website under the Events tab, <https://harrisburgcwr.org/events/>, where you will find additional information on the fall field trip.

### Spotsylvania Court House

Saturday, May 4, 2024, we will head south again to study the battle of Spotsylvania Court House, one of the hardest-fought battles of the Overland Campaign of 1864. Chris Mackowski, who served as our guide to the Wilderness, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville, is back by popular demand. Our visit will coincide with the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Spotsylvania battle. For more information on the trip, download the flyer posted on the Events tab of our website: <https://harrisburgcwr.org/events/>. Seats for this field trip are also going fast, so the best advice is: **"don't delay, reserve a seat today!"**

---

## HCWRT Member News

**The Rev. Rebecca S. Myers** joined us this Spring. She was inspired by her father's interest in the Civil War and their battlefield visits. As an adult her interest increased and she continued taking vacations to historical spots. For many of us, an excellent novel can trigger a curiosity to learn and explore events and how people of the time lived—*Cold Mountain* was such a read for her. Gettysburg is a favorite battlefield as is Appomattox Courthouse. She has a special interest in civilian stories, especially those of resistance, which makes Harriet Tubman a person to admire. Black and Native American history are also of interest to Rebecca.

**David Atkinson** has been a member since 2022 after hearing about us from Steve Smith and Norm Daniels. He is retired from the PA Senate. His interest in the Civil War dates back many years, actually from the first grade with curiosity as to why the war occurred. Reading Bruce Catton expanded his interest. Gettysburg is his favorite battlefield. For generals, Union George Thomas and Confederate Stonewall Jackson—can't get much better than that! Subjects getting his attention are battles, soldier stories, wartime political environment, strategy and Reconstruction.

**Carolyn Ivanoff** joined at the Civil War Round Table Congress this summer. She is a retired high school administrator from Connecticut. Gettysburg and Antietam are her favorite battlefields. She has been interested in all aspects of the Civil War since the early 1980s as well as 19th century material culture. She has just published a book containing firsthand Gettysburg accounts from the 17th Connecticut, *We Fought at Gettysburg*.

**Dr. Mark Blanchard**, our Vice President, has been named Superintendent of Cumberland Valley School District effective December 4—Congratulations—well deserved!!

---

## Silent Auction

Norm Daniels is accepting bids on a set of hard-cover volumes containing *Civil War Times Illustrated* magazines from the 1960s and 1970s. The winner will be announced during our next engagement on November 10. Anyone wishing to bid may contact Norm at 717-712-7494 or by email at [nld500@aol.com](mailto:nld500@aol.com), or place an anonymous bid at the November engagement.

## Meeting Schedule—Campaign 65

12/08/23

TBA

01/19/24

Meade & Lee's "Commanding Machines" at Gettysburg  
Colonel (Ret.) Doug Douds

02/16/24

South Central Pennsylvanians In the  
54th Massachusetts Infantry  
John D. Hoptak

03/15/24

*The Struggle for Spotsylvania's Mule Shoe*  
Jeffrey D. Wert

04/11/24 (THURSDAY)

*Weather at the Battle of Gettysburg*  
Dr. Jon M. Nese

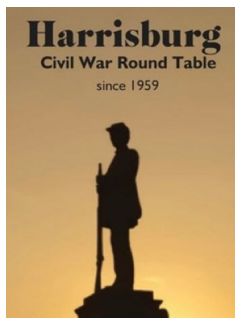
05/17/24—65th Anniversary Speaker

*The Civil War Career of President James A. Garfield*  
C. W. Goodyear

06/06/24 (THURSDAY)

TBA





130th PA Monument  
Antietam National  
Battlefield

*The Dispatch*

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

November 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



Follow the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table on Facebook



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_