

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, October 13—Scott L. Mingus, Sr. *Confederate Cavalry Commander J. E. B. Stuart's Whereabouts Before & During the Battle of Gettysburg*

Join us as Scott L. Mingus, Sr., examines the enduring controversy over what took Confederate cavalry commander J.E.B. Stuart so long to get to Gettysburg.

Many people erroneously believe that General Stuart was on a glory ride around the Army of the Potomac while the Battle of Gettysburg raged, deliberately depriving Robert E. Lee of "the eyes and ears of the army." Mr. Mingus, making extensive use of post-war civilian border claims and old maps, will discuss Stuart's route north, the obstacles that caused him to miss his planned connection with Lee's army near the Susquehanna River, and the wearisome, exhausting ride up and down the hills of York County, from June 30 to July 2, concurrent with the first two days of the Battle of Gettysburg.



Mr. Mingus is a retired scientist and executive in the global specialty paper industry. The Ohio native graduated from Miami University. He has written more than 30 books on the Civil War and the Underground Railroad and numerous articles for *Gettysburg Magazine* and other historical journals. He has appeared on C-SPAN, C-SPAN3, PBS, PCN, and other TV networks. He writes a blog on the Civil War history of York County, where he lives. He has also written six scenario books for miniature wargaming. His books have received or been nominated for numerous national awards. Mr. Mingus will also serve as our guide on Saturday, November 4, when we visit Winchester, Virginia, to study the Second Battle of Winchester.

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/88641390902>. No password is required. To dial in by phone, call 1-301-715-8592 or click on the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88641390902>. The meeting ID # is 886 4139 0902.

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

Change

DINNER IS SERVED!
Friday, October 13

5:30 pm—Refreshments 7:15 pm—Announcements
6:15 pm—Dinner 7:30 pm—Presentation

Buffet Dinner Selections

Herb-marinated Flank Steak, Tilapia Olivia, Green Beans, Olive Oil Roasted Potatoes, Fruit and Nut Salad, House Made Soup du Jour, Brownies

Cost: \$26 per person

pay at the door or on our website: harrisburgcwr.org/events

**Dinner reservations must be made no later than
noon on Monday, October 9**

Phone: Brian Foster at 717-962-6122 or
Email: hcwr.membership@gmail.com

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Remember
to
RSVP

President's Pen

"What America is and hopes to be dates from the fighting along Antietam Creek. The fight cost an enormous number of lives, and inflicted pain and disability on many thousands more; but in the infinite economy of the advance of the human race it may have been worth what it cost."

—Bruce Catton



The fall equinox brought welcome cooler temperatures after a long infernal summer. The weather went from 90 to 55 like it saw a state trooper. Autumn is in the air, and with it comes the excitement of upcoming HCWRT engagements and events.

We kicked off our 65th campaign year with an outstanding lecture on the defense of Culp's Hill on July 2, 1863 by George Sears Greene's Brigade. Educator and seasonal GNMP park ranger Dan Welch knocked it out of the park. We had 42 make dinner reservations. Ten others came just for the lecture, and another 10 tuned in via Zoom, including two from Australia! Our earlier start time worked out well, and we had the best square table attendance in recent memory. The best part was seeing a lot of newcomers from our summer recruiting efforts. While we're always pleased to welcome newcomers, we'd like to see more of our long-term members join us for dinner. Please come out for delicious food, fascinating speakers, stimulating Q&A, and the camaraderie that comes with it. Bring a friend or neighbor!

We've lucky to have Scott Mingus as our October speaker. This prolific Civil War author from York has established quite a reputation, particularly with his books pertaining to the Gettysburg campaign.

Now is the time to pay your membership dues for Campaign 65, if you have not already done so. You can pay the old-fashioned way by sending in the membership form on the back of this newsletter with a check, or you can do it online on our website, under the membership tab. You can also make dinner and field trip reservations and make donations on the website and pay using PayPal or a credit card. If you encounter any difficulties using this new technology, call our Treasurer, Steve Williamson, at 717-580-0443, and he will talk you through the process.

Remember, whether you are calling in or emailing a dinner reservation to Brian Foster or reserving online, the deadline for doing so is Monday at noon prior to the engagement date, as we have to order the food in advance. Those who reserve for dinner are responsible for paying for dinner, even if they are unable to make it to the event.

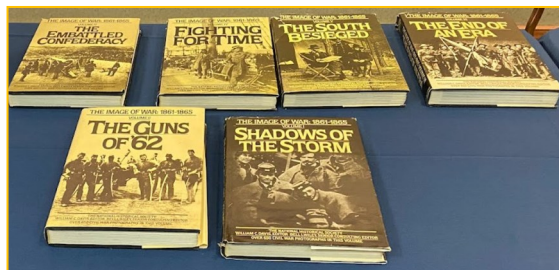
I encourage all our members to come out in October, and join the many satisfied attendees you see in the photo below from our September kickoff. **See you on Friday the 13th.**

John West



Silent Auction

Norm Daniels is accepting bids on a complete set of *The Image of War: 1861-1865*. The winner will be announced during our next engagement on October 13. Anyone wishing to bid may contact Norm at 717-712-7494 or by email at nld500@aol.com. You can also bid during the October meeting.



Time to Re-up

Reminder: October is the month to reenlist for Campaign 65!

Update on Campaign 65 Field Trips

Second Winchester

Saturday, November 4 we are teaming with the Hershey CWRT for 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.

As this newsletter went to press, there were fewer than 10 seats left on the bus. If you are interested in going on this trip, call our Treasurer, Steve Williamson, at 717-580-0443 and ask him to hold a seat for you. If you already signed up and paid a \$25.00 deposit, the \$70.00 balance is due to Steve by **October 4**. You can either send Steve a check for that amount or pay it on our website under the Events tab, <https://harrisburgcwr.org/events/>.

If we fill the bus, Steve will open up a waiting list. In the past, we accommodated almost everyone on the waiting list,

Spotsylvania Court House

Saturday, May 4, 2024, we will head south again to study one of the hardest-fought battles of the 1864 Overland Campaign 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.

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!"

Meet HCWRT Members

Let's get to know our fellow campaigners with an introduction in the newsletter; the editor is starting with more recent recruits. We will send out an oh so brief questionnaire to everyone soon, and as the information comes in, we will share it in the newsletter each month—first responses in—first in the newsletter.

Dr. Kenny Lin joined in July of this year. He googled and found us when he moved to Lancaster. He is a family doctor at Lancaster General Hospital. His interest in the Civil War was triggered by a visit to Appomattox. His interest is primarily in battles, but also Civil War medicine. He has in-depth knowledge of this subject and has passed it on to first year med students at Georgetown through an elective course he taught there. Wow! Antietam is the battle that intrigues him most. Favorite Union general is Grant; Longstreet on the Confederate side.

Richard Weiss, Jr. is a very new campaigner, joining us just a month ago after going on a few field trips. He works at Keller Brothers Ford. His interest dates back to elementary school and increased by multiple visits to Gettysburg, his favorite battlefield. Battles and military leadership are subjects of interest, as reflected by his favorite generals: Winfield Hancock on the Union side and Longstreet on the Confederate side.

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 65

11/10/23

Forgotten Black Companies that Defended Harrisburg
Cooper H. Wingert

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)

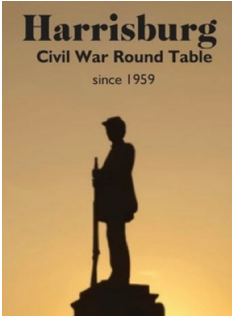
Weather at the Battle of Gettysburg
Dr. Jon M. Nese

05/17/24—65th Anniversary Speaker

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

06/06/24 (THURSDAY)

TBA



The Dispatch

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

October 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 _____
 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: _____
