

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

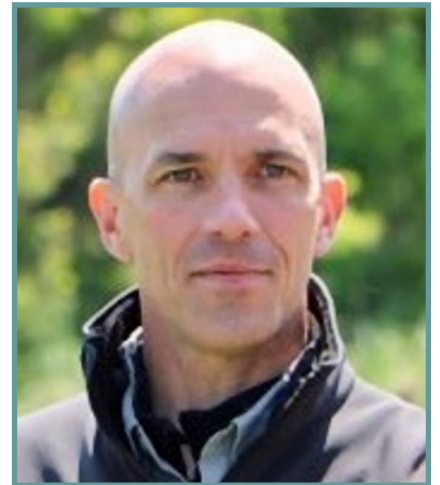
Friday, January 19—Douglas G. Douds

A Comparative Analysis of Meade and Lee's Commanding Machines at Gettysburg

Please join us on Friday, January 19, as Army War College Professor Douglas G. Douds analyzes the differences between the "commanding machines" of Meade's Army of the Potomac and Lee's Army of Northern Virginia during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Staff work is one of the least studied aspects of the Civil War. Army leadership is a collective activity. At Gettysburg, Meade and Lee employed commanding machines – senior subordinate commanders and staff officers – to lead their armies. Professor Douds will compare their commanding machines' structure and processes, giving insights to the battle's outcome. His stimulating talk on this topic was one of the highlights of the 2003 Sacred Trust lectures in Gettysburg last July. Last fall, he defended a doctoral dissertation at Leeds University in England on a comparative case study of field army command at Gettysburg.

Professor Douds is a retired Marine Colonel and a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg. He serves as Director of the Advanced Strategic Arts Program and Expeditionary Warfare in the Army War College's Department of Military Strategy, Planning and Operations. He has served as a strategist and senior speechwriter in the Chairman's Action Group on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He commanded a Marine fighter attack squadron in Iraq prior to earning his master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2010. As an F/A-18 pilot, he deployed multiple times, including two carrier deployments to the Mediterranean Sea and Persian Gulf and a western Pacific deployment. He completed the Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Instructor's course, the Navy Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun), was the top honor graduate from the Amphibious Warfare School, and received two bachelor of arts degrees, in political science and history, from Wake Forest University.



Those 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/87952653473>. No password is required. Call 1-301-715-8592 to dial in by phone, or click on the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87952653473>. The meeting ID # is 879 5265 3473.

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

Orange Beef Satay, Cajun Salmon, Olive Oil Roasted Potatoes, Stir Fried Vegetables, Classic Caesar Salad, House Made Soup du Jour, Rolls/butter, Assorted Cookies

Cost: \$26 per person

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



Dinner reservations must be made no later than noon on Monday, January 15



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President's Pen

*"The art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can and keep moving on."
- Ulysses S. Grant*

Reflecting on our splendid December engagement featuring James Hayney's captivating portrayal of President Abraham Lincoln, I'd like to express my gratitude for the great turnout that night and the shared enjoyment of a delightful meal. It was a festive way to begin the holiday season. My heartfelt thanks to James for bringing our 16th president back to life for an enchanting and unforgettable evening.



As we step into the new year, let's carry forward the momentum we've been building during our 65th campaign, and "keep moving on." I encourage each member to mark their calendars for the engagements this winter and spring. We've recruited a marvelous group of speakers, culminating with our 65th anniversary banquet in May and our annual Nye-Sommers lecture in June. Add to that our spring field trip to Spotsylvania in May, and you can appreciate how much we have to look forward to.

Signing up to attend our engagements is easy; simply contact Brian Foster, our dedicated membership chair, via phone or email. Alternatively, visit our website, sign in (for security reasons), confirm your attendance, and conveniently pay via PayPal or at the door. Please remember, if you confirm attendance, it entails an obligation to pay, as we're committed to covering the cost of the dinner.

We've come a long way since the pandemic shut us down for four months in 2020. With your continued enthusiastic support of our events, we will write a new and glorious chapter in the history of our storied organization. I see nothing but sunlit uplands ahead.

.John West



Our December engagement with President Lincoln was a night to remember!

Christmas with the President



Spring Field Trip to Spotsylvania Court House

On Saturday, May 4, 2024, we will head south to study the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, which witnessed the most protracted and vicious combat of the Overland Campaign of 1864. Chris Mackowski, who served as our guide to the Wilderness, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville, will be back by popular demand. Our visit will coincide with the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Spotsylvania. This is a great opportunity to walk the terrain under the same conditions that existed when the battle was fought. For more information on the trip, download the flyer posted on the Events tab of our website: <https://harrisburgcwr.org/events/>. As this newsletter went to press, there were only 15 seats left on our 56-passenger bus, so the best advice is: ***“don’t delay, reserve a seat today!”***

Gettysburg Winter Lecture Series Resumes

The Gettysburg National Military Park has posted the schedule for its 2024 Winter Lecture Series on its website: <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/gettysburg-winter-programs.htm>. Featuring some of the best rangers, historians, and authors from across the country, the nine-week series is held at 1:30 pm on weekends in the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center from January 6 through March 3, 2024, unless otherwise noted on the schedule. Seating is available on a first-come first-serve basis. Free tickets will be available the day of the program at the Visitor Center beginning at 9:00 am. All programs will be recorded by our friends at *Addressing Gettysburg* and will be posted to their YouTube Channel at youtube.com/@addressinggettysburg. No live stream will be available.



#CWR7 Member News

Charles Payne joined HCWRT last August, hearing about us from word of mouth. He works at AHEC and has been interested in the Civil War pretty much all his life through books, movies and television programs. Living in this area gives him easy access to his favorite battle —Gettysburg. Like many of us, his favorite Union general is Ulysses Grant. On the Confederate side, General James Longstreet. Charles’ main interests are battle and military leadership studies and soldier stories. He certainly works at the perfect place to look at primary sources and read first hand accounts of their experiences by the men who fought.

In Memoriam



Retired Army Colonel Louis Edward (“Ed”) Skender died November 19, 2023 at Country Meadows. Ed was a HCWRT member until recent years when ill health precluded his attendance at meetings. He served for 27 years on active duty with two tours in the Vietnam War with the 4th Armored and 25th Infantry Divisions. He also served at Army headquarters and with the Joints Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, Army Headquarters Europe, and the 4th Transportation Command in Germany. After retiring from military service, he continued to work another 16 years as a defense industry consultant and finally as an acquisitions editor at Stackpole Books in Mechanicsburg, PA.

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 65

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)

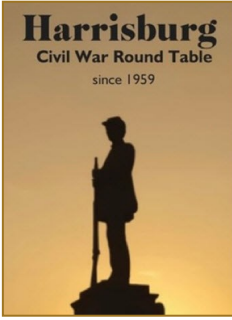
Weather at the Battle of Gettysburg
Dr. Jon M. Nese

05/17/24—65th Anniversary Speaker

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

06/06/24 (THURSDAY)—Nye-Sommers Lecture

*The Good, The Bad, The Ugly, and the Mediocre:
Leadership at the Battle of South Mountain*
D. Scott Hartwig



The Dispatch

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

January 2024

130th PA Monument
Antietam National
Battlefield

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 _____

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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: _____
