

Newsletter of The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

Welcome to our fellowship forum where we discuss our past, emphasizing remembrance, education & preservation.

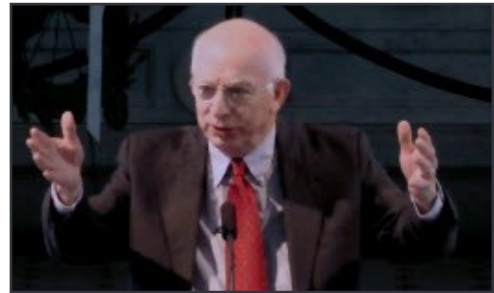
Meetings held at Central Penn College Conference Center and virtually on Zoom

Friday, March 15 — Jeffrey D. Wert

"General, They Are Coming": The Struggle for Spotsylvania's Mule Shoe

Join us on Friday, March 15, as celebrated author Jeffrey D. Wert examines the desperate, hand-to-hand combat that took place at Spotsylvania Court House during the Overland Campaign of 1864.

The Union assault on the Confederate defenses at Spotsylvania Court House, known as the Mule Shoe, on May 12 triggered unrelenting combat for roughly twenty hours, with the opposing Yankees and Rebels fighting at places only the length of a rifle barrel apart. Nothing in these veteran troops' experiences compared to this day. Their accounts of the struggle are graphic and compelling.



Mr. Wert is a retired high school history teacher and a prolific and award-winning Civil War historian. His book on this presentation, *The Heart of Hell: The Soldiers' Struggle for Spotsylvania's Bloody Angle*, received the Atlanta CWRT's Harwell Award in 2023 and the Austin CWRT's Laney Prize for the best book published on a Civil War subject in 2022. His presentation will better prepare those who participate in our field trip to Spotsylvania Court House on May 4, 2024, for that experience.

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/84616319733>. No password is required. The meeting ID # is 846 1631 9733. To dial in by phone, call 1-301-715-8592, or click on the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84616319733>.

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

DINNER IS SERVED!

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

Buffet Dinner Selections

Herb Grilled Chicken, Potato Crusted Cod, Smashed Yukon Potatoes, Sugar Peas and Julienne Carrots, Fruit and Nut Salad, House Made Soup du Jour, Rolls/Butter, 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, March 11

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



Executive Officers

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Vice President, Mark Blanchard
almvp1980@gmail.com
Treasurer, Steve Williamson
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Secretary, Frank Mrocza
jaguar7266@yahoo.com

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harrisburgcwr.org
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President's Pen

"No harm is done to History by making it something someone would want to read."
—David McCullough



I'm delighted to report that our February engagement was a resounding success! We had an impressive turnout of 48 in person (see photo below) and an additional 20 joined us online. The highlight of the evening was our esteemed speaker, Ranger John D. Hoptak, who delivered a captivating presentation on the scores of South-Central Pennsylvanians who joined the famous 54th Massachusetts Infantry, the unit that was portrayed in the 1989 Oscar-winning film, "Glory." John's approach was incredibly personal, engaging, and enlightening, leaving everyone in attendance thoroughly inspired. In addition to this memorable presentation, we were treated to a delightful assortment of delicious food and a special dessert that was a pleasant surprise.

I'm also pleased to report that at our February Board meeting, we voted to send \$2,000 to support battlefield preservation efforts in Gettysburg, Shiloh, and Stones River. With matching grants, our contributions had an impact of \$22,000. We put your dues and donations to good use!

Looking ahead to our March engagement, we're excited about the chance to hear from popular historian Jeffry D. Wert on the struggle for the "Mule Shoe" at the battle of Spotsylvania. This will be excellent preparation for our field trip to Spotsylvania in May. I encourage you to attend and bring a friend. As members of the Harrisburg CWRT, we are all recruiters; so, if you come across someone who may be interested, please extend an invitation. The future of our Round Table depends on it!

Finally, we are actively seeking volunteers for several positions on our Board of Directors that will come open at the end of Campaign 65. The future of our Round Table also depends on the willingness of volunteers to step up and offer to take on leadership roles in our growing organization. If you are interested or know someone who might be please reach out to me or any of our current officers or directors. Elections to fill vacancies take place in June, so we need to identify candidates as soon as possible.

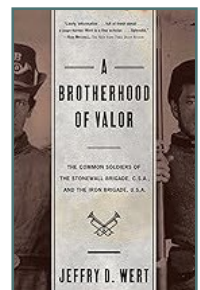
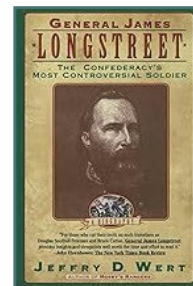
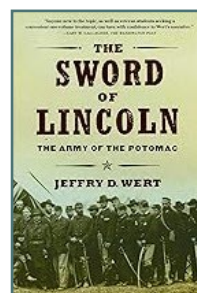
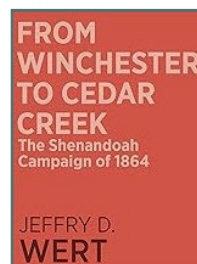
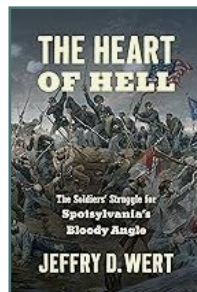
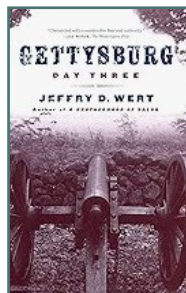
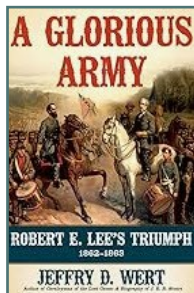
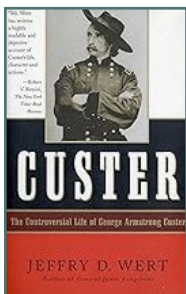
Together let us continue to foster an enriching environment for the study and appreciation of Civil War history.

John West



February engagement with John Hoptak

Selected Books by Our Speaker



Spring Field Trip Update

As this newsletter went to press, our spring field trip to Spotsylvania Court House on Saturday, May 4 was sold out, and we have started a waiting list. Anyone still wishing to participate in that trip should contact our Treasurer, Steve Williamson, by email at steve.williamson.WCCS@outlook.com or at 717-580-0443 and ask to be put on the waiting list. As registrants fall out, Steve will offer seats to those on the waiting list in the order they asked to be put on the list.

Fall Field Trip Scheduled for October 19

Our fall field trip, entitled "Flames Beyond Gettysburg," will take place on Saturday, October 19, and will pick up where our fall field trip for 2023 left off. Guide Scott Mingus will be back, and will trace the route of the Confederate invasion of Adams and York counties in June 1863, culminating in the burning of the Columbia-Wrightsville bridge over the Susquehanna. More details are in the flyer which is posted on our website at <https://harrisburgcwrt.org/events/>. Note that you can now register for the trip on the website, or you can fill out the form at the bottom of the flyer and mail it to Steve Williamson with a check for the \$25.00 deposit. We anticipate this trip will fill up fast, so the best advice is: **"don't delay, register today!"**

65th Anniversary Banquet Fast Approaching

Our 65th anniversary banquet will take place at Central Penn College on Friday, May 17. *New York Times* best-selling author, C.W. Goodyear, will discuss the Civil War career of President James A. Garfield. Our planning committee has been working hard to make this event a memorable one. **Mark your planning calendars now and save the date!** We're hoping for a record turnout. More details to follow in our next newsletter.

Congratulations



Dan Welch, formerly a seasonal park ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park, whose brilliant talk to us last September on the defense of Culp's Hill by George Sears Greene's brigade kicked off our 65th Campaign year, has been hired as a full-time park ranger at Gettysburg.

We congratulate Dan on this achieving this major milestone in his career and hope to see more of him in the future.

#CWRT Membership News

With sadness we report that the *Civil War Times* (nee *Civil War Times Illustrated*) and *America's Civil War* have been cancelled. More details provided by Chris Macknowski at this link:

<https://emergingcivilwar.com/2024/02/24/r-i-p-civil-war-times-and-americas-civil-war/>

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 65

04/11/24 (THURSDAY)

Weather at the Battle of Gettysburg

Dr. Jon M. Nese

05/17/24—65th Anniversary Speaker

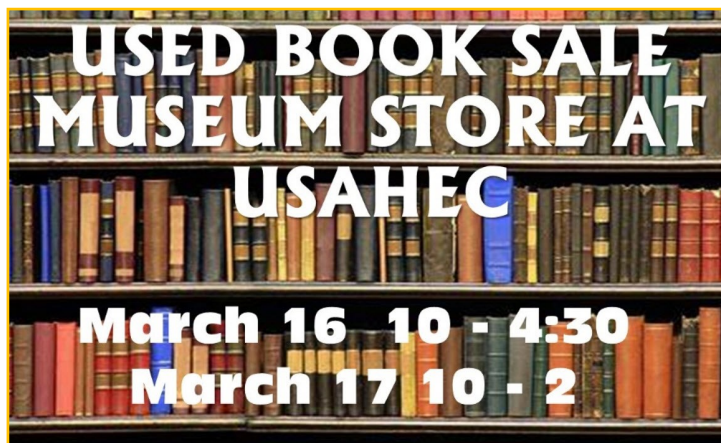
The Civil War Career of President James A. Garfield

C. W. Goodyear

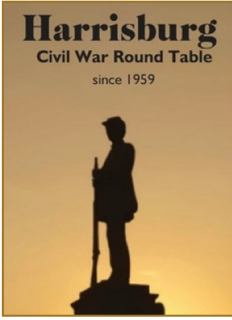
06/06/24 (THURSDAY)—Nye-Sommers Lecture

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

D. Scott Hartwig



Word on the street has it that this book sale will be exceptional, with lots of new items from a private collection that was donated to USAHEC.



The Dispatch

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

March 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

Membership

Current Member Renewal

Individual \$24

Individual or Family Name _____

New Member Enlistment

Family \$36

Address _____

Full Time Student \$5

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

An additional \$10 for a name badge is optional. If you want a badge, name should appear as follows: _____

Donations*

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

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

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