

Newsletter of The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

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

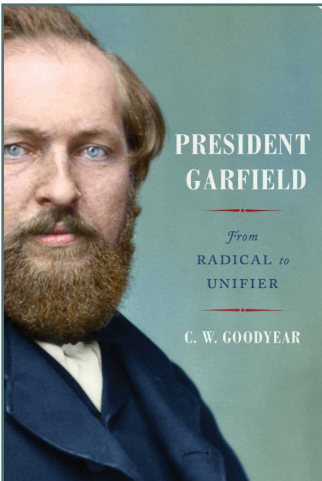
Meetings held at Central Penn College Conference Center and virtually on Zoom.

Friday, May 17—C. W. Goodyear

The Civil War Career of President James A. Garfield

Join us on Friday, May 17, as we celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Harrisburg CWRT's founding in May of 1959. Nationally-acclaimed biographer, C.W. Goodyear, will explore the Civil War military service of Major General James A. Garfield, who went on to serve in Congress and become the 20th President of the United States.

In his magisterial and highly-acclaimed biography, Mr. Goodyear charts the life and times of one of the most remarkable Americans ever to win the Presidency. Progressive firebrand and conservative compromiser; Union war hero and founder of the first Department of Education; Supreme Court attorney and abolitionist preacher; mathematician and canalman; crooked election-fixer and clean-government champion; Congressional chieftain and gentleman-farmer; the last president to be born in a log cabin; the second to be assassinated. James Abram Garfield was all these things and more.



Over nearly two decades in Congress during a polarized era—Reconstruction and the Gilded Age—Garfield served as a peacemaker in a Republican Party and America defined by divisions. He was elected President to overcome them. He was killed while trying to do so.

Mr. Goodyear is an author and historian based in Washington, DC. He was born in New Orleans and grew up abroad before graduating from Yale. He has appeared on the Gilder-Lehrman Book Breaks program with Gina Oppenheim, at the Midtown Scholar bookstore with National Civil War Museum CEO Jeffrey Nichols, at the Politics & Prose bookstore in Washington with General (Ret.) Stanley McCrystal, and on PBS with Christiane Amanpour.

All members, past and present, of the Harrisburg CWRT and anyone interested in learning more about the Civil War are encouraged to attend this special event **in person**. There will be no Zoom broadcast of this anniversary event.



DINNER IS SERVED!

5:30 pm—Reception
6:00 pm—Posting of Colors, Dinner
7:15 pm—Announcements and Program

Buffet Dinner Selections

Braised Flank Steak, Parmesan Crusted Salmon Filet, Chicken Chesapeake with Lump Crab Meat, Asparagus and Old Bay Hollandaise, Olive Oil Roasted Potatoes, Sugar Peas with Julienne Carrots, Mixed Field Greens, House-made Soup du Jour, Assorted Cake and Pies

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, May 13

Executive Officers

President, John West
john@johnfwest.com

Vice President, Mark Blanchard
almvp1980@gmail.com

Treasurer, Steve Williamson
steve.williamson.wccs@outlook.com

Secretary, Frank Mroczka
jaguar7266@yahoo.com

Web Links (CTRL + click)

harrisburgcwr.org

Register For:
MEMBERSHIP

harrisburgcwr.org/membership/

FIELD TRIPS

harrisburgcwr.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, John West
Preservation, Norm Daniels
Programs, Steve Smith
Webmaster, Dana Ledger

President's Pen

*"Ideas are the great warriors of the world, and a war that has no idea behind it is simply brutality."
--President James A. Garfield*



As we gather to commemorate the 65th anniversary of our esteemed organization, it is with great pride and reverence that we reflect upon our humble beginnings and the vision of those who founded the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table in 1959. In May of that year, a group of individuals deeply passionate about the American Civil War came together with a common purpose: to preserve, study, and honor the history and legacy of this pivotal event in our nation's history.

In the years following its establishment, the Harrisburg CWRT has flourished, becoming a beacon for Civil War enthusiasts, historians, and scholars alike. Through our monthly meetings, educational programs, and community outreach initiatives, we have strived to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the events and personalities that shaped our nation during this tumultuous time.

From battlefield tours to guest lectures, from book discussions to living history presentations, our organization has remained steadfast in its commitment to promoting the study of the Civil War in all its complexity and nuance. We have welcomed members from all walks of life, united by a shared fascination with this defining chapter of American history.

As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, let us pay tribute to the visionaries who laid the foundation for our organization and to all those who have contributed to its growth and success over the past six and a half decades. Let us also recommit ourselves to the principles of scholarship, camaraderie, and preservation that have guided us from the very beginning.

As we look to the future, may we continue to honor the memory of those who fought and died during the Civil War, and may we never forget the lessons that their sacrifices teach us about the enduring struggle for freedom, equality, and justice.

John West



In April, Dr. Jon M. Nese gave a riveting talk on the weather during the battle of Gettysburg.

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 65

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

Field Trip Updates

Our spring field trip to Spotsylvania Court House with guide Chris Mackowski will take place on Saturday, May 4; it remains sold out.

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/fall-2024-field-trip-flames-beyond-gettysburg-in-the-footsteps-of-jubal-early-with-scott-mingus/>. 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. More than 20 participants have already signed up. We anticipate this trip will fill up fast, so the best advice is: "don't delay, register today!"

Other Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, May 11:** "A Fire in the Wilderness," lecture by John Reeves at the National Civil War Museum, 1:00-2:00 pm.
- **Saturday, May 25:** Victorian Dance Ensemble dance demonstrations and G.A.R. and civilian artifact displays at the Gettysburg Visitors Center, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- **Monday, May 27** (Memorial Day): Civil War weapons display by Larry Keener-Farley at the Gettysburg Visitors Center, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- **Saturday, June 1:** Used Book Sale at the US Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

65th Anniversary Banquet on May 17

Our 65th anniversary banquet will take place at Central Penn College on Friday, May 17. Our planning committee has been working hard to make this event a memorable one. It will include living historians (the Pennsylvania Bucktails), a special menu and HCWRT souvenirs, and a retrospective on our Round Table which will include speakers, published works, and a review of preservation efforts. In addition, Jim Schmick has agreed to have available books authored by Round Table members and speakers from across the decades.

Mark your planning calendars now and save the date!

Invite your friends and neighbors—we're hoping for a record turnout.

Check Out Our Website!

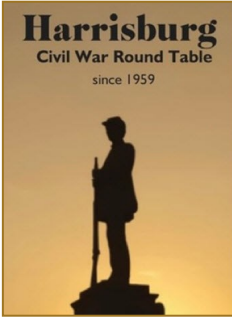
Take a look at the website—we have been working to upgrade it to make it easy for our membership to follow our events, sign up and pay for dinners, sign up and pay for field trips, and annually renew membership.

You may see yourself in the rolling banner of pictures when you log on. Newsletters since 2019 can be viewed. Preservation of battlefields is part of our mission; see the impressive list of our donations through the years. The website's Photo Gallery includes photos from our 2023 field trips to Chancellorsville, Antietam Creek, and Winchester, underscoring the fun we have on those trips, along with shots from field trips going back to 2016. <https://harrisburgcwrt.org>

Candidates Needed to Fill Leadership Positions

Volunteers are urgently needed to fill several soon-to-be-vacant positions on the HCWRT Board of Directors. Anyone willing to serve should contact President John West, who chairs our nominating committee, at 412-217-1234 or john@johnfwest.com. Board elections are coming up in early June.

Now is the time for all good members to come to the aid of their Round Table!



The Dispatch

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

May 17, 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



Follow the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table on Facebook



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