

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

#CWRT Launches Its 66th Campaign Year

While the memory of our grand 65th Anniversary celebration in May and our stimulating 2024 Nye-Sommers lecture in June is fresh in our minds, the question is: *what are we going to do for an encore?*

We've assembled an incredible line-up of speakers for Campaign 66. Gettysburg National Military Park Chief of Interpretation Christopher Gwinn will kick off in September with a riveting talk on Little Round Top, including an update on recent renovation work there. Brian Matthew Jordan will be our Veterans Day speaker, discussing his book *Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Jennifer Murray returns in December to examine Meade, Grant, and the Overland Campaign. Army War College professor Doug Douds will join us in January to compare the staff work by Meade and Lee's "commanding machines" at Gettysburg, fresh from successfully defending his doctoral thesis on the subject. Best-selling author Fergus Bordewich will be our Black History Month speaker in February, recounting how President Grant sent federal troops into the South to decimate the KKK and save Reconstruction. Craig Symonds, the nation's preeminent naval historian, will join us in March to address Farragut and the Battle of Mobile Bay. Chris Mackowski, who has led us on four recent field trips, will join us in April to discuss Grant's battle with throat cancer while writing his personal memoirs. And in May, the nation's leading Lincoln scholar, Harold Holzer, will examine Lincoln's support of immigration, as he delivers the 2025 Nye-Sommers Lecture.

So, there is much to look forward to as we embark on our 66th campaign year. We strive to bring you the very best speakers, and hope you will come out and hear what they have to say in the year ahead. More information on these speakers and their topics is available at www.harrisburgcwr.org/events.



Save the Date—Campaign 66 Meetings

Friday, September 13, 2024—Campaign Kickoff
Friday, October 11, 2024
Friday, November 8, 2024—Veterans Day
Friday, December 6, 2024—Holiday Party
Friday, January 24, 2025
Friday February 21, 2025—Black History Month
Friday March 14, 2025
Friday, April 11, 2025
Friday, May 16, 2025—Nye-Sommers Lecture
Thursday, June 5, 2025—Annual Business Meeting

Please mark these dates on your planning calendars and plan to attend. More information on speakers and topics can be found at <https://harrisburgcwr.org/events>

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President's Pen

"If we do not make common cause to save the good old ship of the Union on this voyage, nobody will have a chance to pilot her on another voyage."

— Abraham Lincoln



I recently attended a CWRT Congress workshop with representatives of Round Tables from nine states to discuss membership and retention. My heart ached when I heard others from as far away as Georgia and Connecticut speak of the enormous number of Round Tables that have "struck the tent" and are no longer active. None of us truly know or fully appreciate the untold hours Steve Smith and John West spent working for us during the pandemic, personally monitoring nearly every aspect of the operations of our Round Table to bring us our monthly programming. Thanks to our members' generosity, Steve and John's nimble and agile leadership, and the dedicated efforts of our Board of Directors, we emerged on the other side of the pandemic in better shape than we were in 2019. Our Round Table is blessed to have had such good leadership during these trying times; we owe them a debt of gratitude.

As we enter our 66th campaign year, it is time for our members to show their support for our efforts by paying their annual dues. In an effort to facilitate this process and make it easier on our members, we are trying a new approach to collecting dues this year. Those of you who have email addresses should have already received an invoice from our bookkeeper, asking you to log on to our website and renew your membership by paying your dues for Campaign 66 with a credit card or PayPal. If you did not receive an invoice by email, you can still go to our website at <https://harrisburgcwrt.org/membership> and either click on the online membership form to pay by credit card or PayPal, or click on the mail-in membership form link to print out a membership renewal form and mail it, with a check made out to HCWRT, to our Treasurer, Steve Williamson, at 121 Windrush Lane, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. If you do not have an email account, you should receive a hard copy invoice in the mail. Contact Steve at 717-580-0443 if you have any questions about to renew your membership, or pay in person at by credit card or check our next engagement on Friday, September 13.

As your new president, I look forward to carrying on the good work of my predecessors, and to seeing all of you when we kick off our Campaign 66 engagements in September. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Mo Becker

Donations

A Donation to the Harrisburg CWRT has been made in memory of
Suzanne Sweatlock Gumpert

A Donation to the Harrisburg CWRT has been made in honor of
Mo Becker and Steve Smith

Recruiting

The HCWRT was well represented at the annual Carlisle Barracks Community Expo in August.

We recruited new members from incoming Army War College students, faculty and staff.

L to R: Steve Williamson, Mo Becker, Mike Margolius, Joe Leardi, Steve Smith



Fall Field Trip

Our fall field trip, entitled *Flames Beyond Gettysburg*, will take place on Saturday, October 19, and picks 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 fill out the form at the bottom of the flyer and mail it to Steve Williamson with a check for the \$25.00 deposit. The remaining \$70.00 balance is due by September 19.



As this newsletter went to press, there were only three seats left on our 56-passenger bus.

Once those are filled, Steve Williamson will compile a wait list based on the order in which additional registrations are received.

If any registrants fall out between now and the date of the trip, as some inevitably will, Steve will fill those vacancies from the wait list.

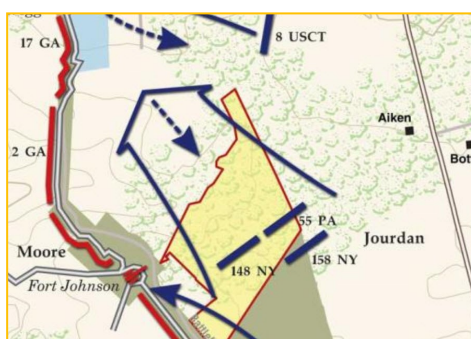
Preservation Update

Battlefield preservation is a key part of the HCWRT's mission. At its August 3 meeting, the HCWRT's Board of Directors voted to donate \$1,000 to the American Battlefield Trust to protect 132 acres at three battlefields threatened by development. It made this donation in honor of Dr. Richard J. Sommers, who was a pillar and benefactor of our Round Table for decades.

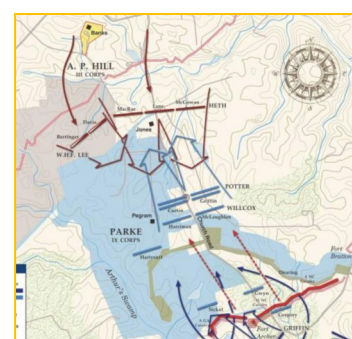
An 88-acre site at Fort Blakely, near Mobile Bay, Alabama, saw fighting by one of the largest contingents of US Colored Troops involved in a Civil War attack. A 35-acre Chaffin's Farm site at New Market Heights, Virginia, and a 9-acre Pebbles' Farm site at Petersburg were written about by Dr. Sommers in his book, *Richmond Redeemed*. Chaffin's Farm also saw fighting by the USCT, 14 of whom received the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Pebbles' Farm site includes a house used by General Grant.



Fort Blakely



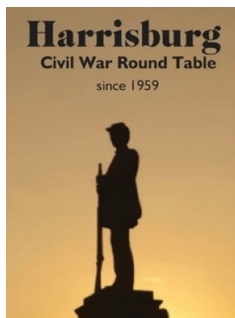
Chaffin's Farm



Pebble's Farm

Upcoming Events

- ♦ **Wednesday, August 21, 6:30 pm:** Historian D. Scott Hartwig will discuss *A Short Campaign of Great Consequence: Strategic and Operational Considerations of the 1862 Maryland Campaign and Battle of Antietam* at the US Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle..
- ♦ **Tuesday, September 10, 6:30 pm:** Historian and HCWRT member Dr. Christian Keller will discuss *Southern Strategies: Why the Confederacy Failed* at the US Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle at 6:30 pm.
- ♦ **Saturday, September 14 & Sunday, September 15, 9:00 am—5:00 pm:** Army Expo at USAHEC in Carlisle with reenactors from various periods and a used book sale featuring a large selection of military history books—AND recruiters from the HCWRT!



130th PA Monument
Antietam National
Battlefield

The Dispatch

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

August 2024

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 _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Contacts:

For questions email: Michael Margolius, Membership, 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: _____
