

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, September 13—Christopher Gwinn

Little Round Top: The Vision Place of Souls

Join us on Friday, September 13, as Ranger Christopher Gwinn recounts the heroic defense of Little Round Top on the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg by such legendary figures as Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, Strong Vincent, Charles Hazelett and Patrick O'Rorke. He will discuss the role of memory and how interpretation of this critical aspect of the battle has evolved over the years. This lecture electrified a capacity audience during Gettysburg's 2023 Winter Lecture Series. What better way to kick off our 66th anniversary campaign year?



Ranger Gwinn is a 2006 graduate of Gettysburg College and holds a Master's Degree in Public History. He has worked as an Interpretive Park Ranger at Antietam National Battlefield, Boston National Historical Park, and the National Mall and Memorial Parks, where he created some of the first public programming conducted at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. Currently the Chief of Interpretation and Education at Gettysburg National Military Park, he manages and oversees all aspects of the visitor experience. He has written numerous articles and journal entries on the Battle of Gettysburg and the Civil War era. He last addressed our Round Table in February 2022 via Zoom during the pandemic on *Gettysburg's Rebel Commissioner: The Life and Legacy of William Robbins*, and is looking forward to addressing a live audience this time. He will also give us an update on the improvements that have recently been made to Little Round Top, which is now open to the public again.

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/84886473492>. 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/84886473492>. The meeting ID # is 848 8647 3492.

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

DINNER IS SERVED!

5:30 pm—Refreshments
6:15 pm—Dinner

7:30 pm—Presentation
8:30 pm—Square Table

Buffet Dinner Selections

Herb-marinated Flank Steak, Lemon Cod Fish Filet, Olive Oil Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans, Mixed Field Greens, House Made Soup Du Jour, Assorted Cookies

Cost: \$32 per person

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

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

Email: Michael Margolius at:
hcwr.membership@gmail.com



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Vice President, Mark Blanchard
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President's Pen

*"In great deeds something abides. On great fields something stays. Forms change and pass;
bodies disappear, but spirits linger, to consecrate ground for the vision place of souls."
-- Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain*



I urge you to come out at 5:30 pm on Friday, September 13 for an evening of good food, great fellowship, and an inspiring talk and discussion. We're privileged to have as our speaker Gettysburg NMP's Chief of Interpretation and Education, Christopher Gwinn, whose topic will be *Little Round Top: The Vision Place of Souls*. There is poetic justice in having Chris, who carries on Scott Hartwig's good work at Gettysburg, follow his mentor in our list of speakers. This promises to be tremendous kick-off to our 66th campaign year. Don't miss it!

If you can't make it for dinner, but want to come just for the talk, chairs will be available in the back of the room as in the past. Please arrive by 7:00 pm. If you cannot be with us in person, or are feeling under the weather, please join us via Zoom not later than 7:00 pm.

The HCWRT Board of Directors has been busy over the summer planning for the coming campaign. We've made a few changes.

All Board members consider "providing a congenial medium..." during which members break bread together an essential task to accomplish our mission. Our Campaign 66 meal charge from Central Penn College (CPC) has increased. Accordingly, the Board made the difficult decision to increase the cost of the meal to \$32.00. To prevent it from going even higher, we decided to eliminate the hot beverage station, which would have added another \$2.95 per attendee to the cost of dinner. If you must have a cup of Joe, bring your own! A number of alternate sites were surveyed in the local area before the Board made this decision. All had room rental fees in excess of \$200.00 per evening, considerably higher tech support fees, meal costs higher than CPC's, and generally only one entree option.

The Board was also disappointed to learn that the service staff that takes such good care of us at Central Penn do not receive a gratuity for their service. Rather than further increase the cost of dinner, the Board agreed to "pass the hat" during each engagement so we can show our appreciation for their efforts. We will recognize the service staff in December and in June with cash collected from passing the hat.

In an effort to increase attendance at our Square Table, our meeting format will change slightly with announcements coming before dinner. Considering the superb quality of the speakers we attract, we hope more attendees will join us in the Yellow Breeches Room after the speaker's talk for our Square Table sessions, which are unique to our Round Table, and which our speakers genuinely enjoy.

Some things have not changed. Our dues have not gone up, and our popular field trips remain a real bargain at \$95.00 a head. We'll continue to sell used books, magazines, and prints at our engagements to raise funds for battlefield preservation; please continue to donate items to Norm Daniels to sell during our engagements.

As the song goes, I will see you in September. Have a great Labor Day!

Mo Becker

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 66

10/11/24

TBA

11/8/24

Marching Home: Union Veterans' Unending Civil War

Brian Matthew Jordan

12/6/24

Meade, Grant, and the Overland Campaign

Jennifer Murray

01/24/25

Meade & Lee's Commanding Machines at Gettysburg

Doug Douds

02/21/25

Klan War: Ulysses S. Grant and the Battle to Save Reconstruction

Fergus M. Bordewich

03/14/25

David G. Farragut and the Battle of Mobile Bay

Craig L. Symonds

04/11/25

Grant's Last Battle: The Story of Writing His Personal Memoirs

Chris Mackowski

05/16/25 —Nye-Sommers Lecture

Brought Forth on This Continent: Abraham Lincoln & American Immigration

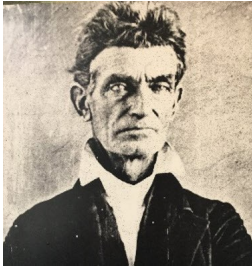
Harold Holzer

Fall Field Trip Update

Our fall field trip, entitled *Flames Beyond Gettysburg*, will take place on Saturday, October 19. The trip is currently sold out, but anyone interested in being on a wait list should contact our Treasurer, Steve Williamson. 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. **Those who are registered for the trip who have not yet paid in full should pay any remaining balance to Steve by September 19.**

Fall Field Trip Update

Our spring field trip, entitled *In the Footsteps of John Brown*, will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025.



Dennis Frye will be our guide—back by popular demand. Our tour will begin at the Kennedy Farm north of Harpers Ferry where Brown and his men holed up for several months prior to their raid while collecting arms and ammunition. Dennis will then lead us on a walking tour of the Lower Town, including John Brown's Fort, the US Armory and Arsenal, and the B&O RR Potomac River Bridge. After lunch we will visit Charles Town, West Virginia, where Brown was incarcerated, tried, and hanged. We'll visit the Jefferson County courthouse and museum, in addition the site of his execution. More details on the trip are on our website at [https://harrisburgcwrt.org/events/spring-2025-field-trip-in-the-footsteps-of-john-brown-](https://harrisburgcwrt.org/events/spring-2025-field-trip-in-the-footsteps-of-john-brown-with-dennis-frye/)

[with-dennis-frye/](https://harrisburgcwrt.org/events/spring-2025-field-trip-in-the-footsteps-of-john-brown-with-dennis-frye/) The cost of the trip is only \$95.00. A \$25.00 deposit will hold your seat on the bus; the \$70.00 balance is not due until April 3. We anticipate this trip will fill up fast, so the best advice is to register today. You can do so on our website with a credit card or you can download the flyer, fill out the registration form, and pay by check.

Other Upcoming Events

- **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 & Education Center in Carlisle.
- **Saturday, September 14 & Sunday, September 15, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm:** Army Expo at the US Army Heritage & Education Center in Carlisle with reenactors from various periods, a used book sale featuring a large selection of military history books, and recruiters from the Harrisburg CWRT!
- **Saturday, September 21 & Sunday, September 22:** WWII Weekend at the Eisenhower Farm in Gettysburg. <https://www.nps.gov/eise/world-war-ii-weekend.htm>

Preservation of Peace Church

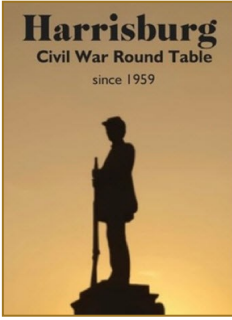
Joe Boslet, former HCWRT President, Board Member, and current President of Camp Curtin Historical Society is asking any member interested in serving on the Advisory Board of the Friends of Peace Church to contact him. This Advisory Board would meet two or three times a year and would discuss long range planning and any major issues regarding the Peace Church. Joe can be reached at 717-736-9337 or jwiz2008@comcast.net.

Battlefield Preservation

The HCWRT received a *Thank You* from the American Battlefield Trust for our recent donation of \$1,000 to support preservation at New Market Heights and Petersburg, VA and Fort Blakely near Mobile Bay, AL. We pass along their thanks to our membership

A donation to the Harrisburg CWRT has been made in memory of

Jackie Lapitsky



The Dispatch

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

September 13, 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

New Member Enlistment

Individual \$24

Family \$36

Full Time Student \$5

Individual or Family Name _____

Address _____

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 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