

Campaign 66  
Skirmish 2  
October 11, 2024

# The Dispatch

Editor  
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## 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, October 11—Cory M. Pfarr

### "To Make a Demonstration, to the Letter": Seven Distinct Maps of Longstreet's Gettysburg Performance

Join us on Friday, October 11, as author and historian Cory Pfarr critically reexamines the role that controversial Confederate Lieutenant General James Longstreet played at the battle of Gettysburg.

In a February 1887 article, while addressing continued criticisms of his performance at the Battle of Gettysburg, Longstreet advanced a curious suggestion, heretofore unexplored, which was to produce a "volume of distinct maps" of key points in the battle that would combat these allegations and other falsehoods that had emerged in the postwar years. Unfortunately for the historical record, several inaccuracies of Longstreet's time have persisted into modern-day studies and the collective consciousness of historical memory. This presentation will examine these seven distinct battle maps covering all three days of the battle, using them as tools to thoroughly address some of the most persistent misrepresentations of Longstreet's performance.

Mr. Pfarr works for the Department of Defense. He is the author of the award-winning *Longstreet at Gettysburg: A Critical Reassessment* (McFarland Publishers, 2019) and *Righting the Longstreet Record at Gettysburg: Six Matters of Controversy and Confusion* (McFarland Publishers, 2023). He is an associate editor for *North & South Magazine*, contributor for *North & South Magazine* and *Gettysburg Magazine*, and has appeared on the Pennsylvania Cable Network and C-SPAN American History TV.

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/89752737800>. No password in required. To dial in call 1-301-715-8592 or click on following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89752737800>. The meeting ID # is 897 5273 7800 .



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

5:30 pm—Doors Open  
6:00 pm—Call to Order  
6:15 pm—Dinner

7:15 pm—Presentation  
8:30 pm—Square Table

### Buffet Dinner Selections

Chicken Caprese, Parmesan Crusted Cod, Jasmine Rice Pilaf, Sugar Peas w/Julienne Carrots, Fruit and Nut Salad, House Made Soup du Jour, Brownies

Cost: \$32 per person

pay at the door or on our website: [harrisburgcwrt.org/events](https://harrisburgcwrt.org/events)

**Dinner reservations must be made no later than noon on Monday, October 7**

Email: Michael Margolius at:  
[hcwrt.membership@gmail.com](mailto:hcwrt.membership@gmail.com)



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### Web Links (CTRL + click)

[harrisburgcwrt.org](https://harrisburgcwrt.org)  
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## President's Pen

*"General, I have been a soldier all my life. I have been with soldiers engaged in fights by couples, squads, companies, regiment, divisions and armies, and should know as well as anyone what soldiers can do. It is my opinion that no 15,000 men ever arrayed for battle can take that position."*

– Lieutenant General James Longstreet to General Lee before Pickett's Charge



We successfully kicked off our 66<sup>th</sup> campaign year on September 13 with an insightful and inspired presentation on Little Round Top by the Chief of Interpretation and Education at the Gettysburg National Military Park, Ranger Christopher Gwinn.

Thirty-six of our members came out for dinner in September, and another 10 came out for the lecture. Our group photo below captures the fabulous camaraderie of the event. We hope even more of our members will come out for our October engagement and bring plenty of guests with them to hear Cory Pfarr's perspective on Confederate General James Longstreet's performance at the Battle of Gettysburg. It should be fascinating! Your Round Table is counting on you.

Our Round Table is unique in many ways, and our Square Table sessions are part of what sets us apart. We carry on this longtime HCWRT tradition in the Yellow Breeches Room at the conclusion of the speaker's presentation. Attendees get to ask our speakers about a wide variety of Civil War topics not generally covered in the Q&A session at the end of their presentations. Our speakers tell us they genuinely look forward to these sessions. Eleven of our members stayed on for the Square Table in September, covering topics from Antietam to Zoom to the average number of visitors at Gettysburg National Military Park over the years. We hope more of our members will take advantage of this opportunity to broaden their knowledge of the Civil War when Cory Pfarr addresses us in October.

Looking further down the road, please plan to attend our annual Veterans Day engagement on Friday, November 8, when celebrated author Brian Matthew Jordan will address how Union veterans were treated after the Civil War. Students from Penn State Harrisburg will be joining us that evening as we salute our own veterans. Members are encouraged to invite veterans to come as their guests. To honor the service of those who have worn the nation's cloth, all veterans who come for dinner will enjoy a free meal courtesy of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table. Veterans are encouraged to wear their medals.

Many thanks to those who came out to man our recruiting table at the US Army Heritage and Education Center's 2024 Army Expo. Our display and our Civil War trivia contest excited a lot of interest in our Round Table, and will help us expand our membership while raising the profile of our truly unique organization.

And thanks to those who completed the survey we circulated after the September engagement. We value your opinion, and will review survey input at our next Board of Directors meeting.

Mo Becker



## Meeting Schedule—Campaign 66

**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—*Flames Beyond Gettysburg*—will take place on Saturday, October 19. The trip is currently sold out, but anyone interested in being put 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.

## *Spring Field Trip Filling Up Fast*

Our spring field trip—*In the Footsteps of John Brown*—will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025. Back by popular demand, Dennis Frye will be our guide. We will visit sites associated with Brown and his followers in and around Harpers Ferry and Charles Town, WV. More details on the trip are on our website at <https://harrisburgcwr.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. The trip is filling 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 at the bottom of it, and mail it to our Treasurer, Steve Williamson, with a check.

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## *Time to Re-Up*

We're hoping all our members will reenlist by the end of October. If you have already done so, many thanks. If you have yet to "re-up," you can do so on our website using a credit card or PayPal: <https://harrisburgcwr.org/membership/>, or you can print out the hard copy version of the registration form on our website and mail it to our Treasurer, Steve Williamson, with a check. You can also renew your membership in person at the October engagement.

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## *Prize Winning Speakers*

This year the American Battlefield Trust inaugurated a monetary prize to authors of military history or a biography relating to our nation's formative conflicts—the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War. The ABT has protected over 155 sites in 25 states and created this award to call attention to the landscapes as primary sources for lovers of history to more deeply understand the past. Works of military history aligned with the Trust's land preservation mission that were published in calendar years 2022 and 2023 were eligible for this first year's prize.

Three major historians judged from a small group of finalists. This year's winner is Elizabeth Varon for *Longstreet: The Confederate General Who Defied the South*; two honorable mentions went to D. Scott Hartwig for *I Dread the Thought of the Place: The Battle of Antietam and the End of the Maryland Campaign* and Friederike Baer for *Hessians: German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War*. One of eight finalists is Jeffrey D. Wert for *The Heart of Hell: The Soldiers' Struggle for Spotsylvania's Bloody Angle*.

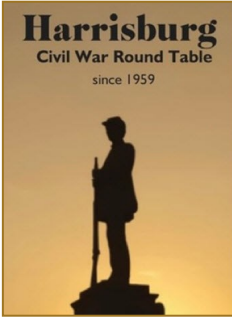
Kudos to Steve Smith, our Program Chair, for capturing two of these outstanding authors as speakers for us during Campaign 65.

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## *Remembering Patrick MacEmcy*



Patrick MacEmcy, the warm-hearted catering director at Central Penn College who welcomed us with open arms during our engagements for Campaigns 64 and 65, died of a brain aneurism on August 28. He was 58 years old. Our hearts go out to his bereaved family and to his devoted coworkers at Central Penn. We will remember Patrick's attention to detail, his pride and professionalism, and the sheer joy he brought to our meetings. We salute his staff, who, despite their shock and grief, kept calm and carried on at our September engagement, upholding Patrick's high standards and ensuring the show went on. We ask our members to keep all of them in your thoughts and prayers. We will keep you apprised of any plans for a celebration of life service.



## The Dispatch

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

October 11, 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 email: Michael Margolius, Membership Chair, hcwrt.membership@gmail.com

Mail checks to: Steve Williamson, Treasurer, Phone 717-580-0443, 121 Windrush Lane, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-9236