

Newsletter of The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

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

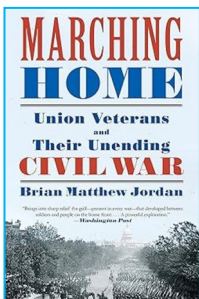
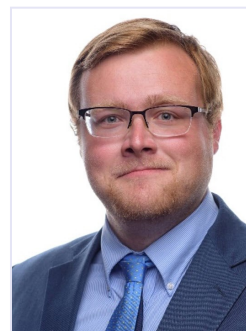
Meetings held at Central Penn College Conference Center and virtually on Zoom.

Friday, November 8—Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan

Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War

Join us on Friday, November 8 for a special salute to our veterans, past and present, as Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan discusses the myriad challenges Union veterans had to contend with when they came marching home again.

For well over a century, traditional Civil War histories concluded in 1865, with a bitterly won peace and Union soldiers returning triumphantly home. The reality was decidedly less glorious. These veterans—tending rotting wounds, battling alcoholism, campaigning for paltry pensions—tragically realized that they stood as unwelcome reminders to a new America eager to heal, forget, and embrace the freewheeling bounty of the Gilded Age. Drawing on anguished letters and diaries, essays by amputees, and gruesome medical reports, all deeply revealing of the American psyche, Dr. Jordan will shed new light on the plight of those who won the war, but couldn't bear the peace.



A native of northeastern Ohio, Dr. Jordan is an associate professor of history and chair of the History Department at Sam Houston State University. He graduated with a B.A. in History and Civil War Era Studies from Gettysburg College in 2009, and went on to earn his Ph.D. from Yale University, where he studied under Professors David Blight and Joanne Freeman. He is the author of *Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in History, and *A Thousand May Fall: Life, Death, and Survival in the Union Army*, which recounts the many challenges faced by the 107th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which was composed primarily by ethnic Germans whose loyalties were regularly questioned by the nativist northern press.

Dr. Jordan is a frequent speaker at Civil War Round Tables nationwide, and delivers popular tours for Gettysburg College's Civil War Institute and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

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/87367347326>. No password is required. To dial in call 1-301-715-8592 or click on following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87367347326>. The meeting ID # is 873 6734 7326.

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

Tuscan Pork Tenderloin, Citrus Salmon, Smashed Yukon Gold Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots, Mixed Field Greens, House Made Soup du Jour, Assorted Cookies

Cost: \$32 per person

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

Dinner reservations must be made no later than noon on Monday, November 4

Email: Michael Margolius at:
membership@harrisburgcwrt.org



Executive Officers

President, Mo Becker
mdbecker132@comcast.net
Vice President, Mark Blanchard
mblanchard@cvschools.org
Treasurer, Steve Williamson
steve.williamson.wccs@outlook.com
Secretary, Rebecca Myers
revmyers2013@gmail.com

Web Links (CTRL + click)

harrisburgcwrt.org
Register For:
MEMBERSHIP
harrisburgcwrt.org/membership/
FIELD TRIPS
harrisburgcwrt.org/events/

Directors

David Atkinson
Norm Daniels
Rick Eiserman
Dana Ledger
Don Madar
Tracy Sommers

Standing Committees

Audit, Joe Boslet
Communications/PR, Todd Little
Field Trips, Steve Smith
Membership, Michael Margolius
Newsletter, Tracy Sommers
Nominating, John West
Preservation, Norm Daniels
Programs, Steve Smith
Webmaster, Dana Ledger

President's Pen

*Rousing their zeal, their curiosity, each and every man, and soon enough
the assembly seats were filled with people thronging, gazing in wonder at the seasoned man of war.
—Homer, The Odyssey*



At our upcoming engagement on Friday, November 8, we will celebrate Veteran's Day and invite current and former service members to join us for a free dinner. Veterans are encouraged to wear their personal awards and decorations to this event.

As part of our salute to those who have worn the nation's cloth, we are flying in Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan, from Sam Houston State University in Texas, to shed light on the many challenges Union veterans faced after the Civil War. It promises to be a night to remember!

Please inform our membership chair, Michael Margolius, no later than noon on Monday, November 4 that you intend to come for dinner, and **let him know if you are a veteran**. RSVP for dinner through our website or by sending Michael an email at membership@harrisburgcwr.org.

I encourage members who have not been to a meeting in a while to join us for dinner and to participate in our salute to our veterans. Bring a neighbor or a friend! The best way for our members to show their support for our Round Table is to attend our dinner meetings. Our ability to continue to use the facilities at Central Penn College depends on robust attendance at our dinner meetings.

I'd like to thank all those who participated in last weekend's "Flames Beyond Gettysburg" fall field trip which followed the Confederate invasion route from Gettysburg to Wrightsville and back. We had a superb guide in Scott Mingus, perfect Indian summer weather, a tremendous lunch at the John Wright Restaurant in Wrightsville with a stunning view of the remains of the bridge that was burnt in 1863, and fascinating stops along the way at Hanover Junction, York's Penn Park, the new Susquehanna National Heritage Area in Wrightsville, and Zion Hill cemetery in Columbia where USCT veterans of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry repose. My thanks to Steve Smith and Ricky Hollis, who organized the trip, and to our Treasurer, Steve Williamson, who kept track of the reservations and ensured mission success.

The smiles on the faces of those who attended our October engagement in the photo below speak volumes about the enthusiasm for our programs.

Mo Becker



Meeting Schedule—Campaign 66

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

Fabulous Fall Field Trip

As reported in the President's Pen, the Fall Field Trip was a great success—fun and informative for the troops who attended.



At the Columbia-Wrightsville bridge

Spring Field Trip Filling Up Fast

Our spring field trip—*In the Footsteps of John Brown*—will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025. More details on the trip are on our website at <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 holds your seat on the bus; the \$70.00 balance is not due until April 3. The trip is filling up fast, with only a few seats still available, 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. Steve will start a waiting list as soon as the last seat is sold, and as registrants drop out for one reason or another, as they always do (six dropped out of the fall field trip), he will fill the vacated seats from the waiting list in the order registrations were received.

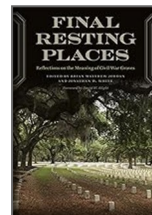
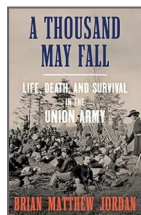
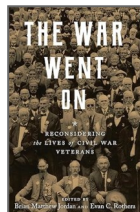
Urgently Looking for a New Treasurer

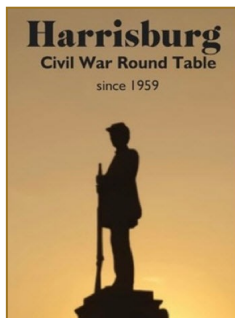
One of the most important positions on the Harrisburg CWRT Board of Directors is that of Treasurer. Simply put, we cannot do anything without having the right person in that job. The term of our current Treasurer, Steve Williamson, ends in June, but we cannot wait until then to train a successor. Ideally, whoever stands for election to this position in June should serve as Steve's assistant for several months so there can be a seamless handoff this spring. Steve has made many improvements to how we handle funds that will greatly streamline and simplify the work of his successor. If you have any kind of financial or accounting background, can balance a checkbook, and want to see our Round Table build on its many successes, please make your interest in the position known to past president John West, who heads our nominating committee. He can be reached at john@johnfwest.com or 412-217-1234.

Upcoming Events

- **Friday, November 15, 5:30 pm:** Author Dr. Jon Grinspan will discuss his book *Wide Awake: The Movement that Elected Lincoln and Ignited the Civil War* at the National Civil War Museum. This live book talk is free and open to the public.
- **Saturday, December 7, 1:00 pm:** Author Andrew Sillen will discuss his book *Kidnapped at Sea: The Civil War Voyage of David Henry White* at the National Civil War Museum. This live book talk is free and open to the public.

Other Books by Our Speaker





130th PA Monument
Antietam National
Battlefield

The Dispatch

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

November, 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



Follow the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table on Facebook



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 Chair, membership@harrisburgcwrt.org

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