

## Newsletter of The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

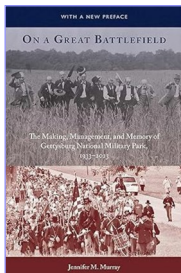
Welcome to our fellowship forum where we discuss our past, emphasizing remembrance, education & preservation.

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

Friday, December 6—Dr. Jennifer Murray

### "It Would Be Injurious to the Army to Have Two Heads": Meade, Grant and the Overland Campaign

Civil War history has consistently framed the final two years of the war as an epic contest between Grant and Lee and has too frequently overshadowed the role of Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac. Grant's arrival to the Eastern Theater in March 1864 signaled a new command dynamic for Meade and his army. An examination of the relationship between Grant and Meade reveals nuance to the army's 1864 and 1865 campaigns in Virginia and highlights Meade's role in these operations. Rather than being relegated to a secondary, supporting role in the army's command structure, Meade exercised incredible influence on operations during the campaign.



Dr. Murray is a military historian, with a specialization in the American Civil War, in the Department of History at Oklahoma State University. Her most recent publication is *On A Great Battlefield: The Making, Management, and Memory of Gettysburg National Military Park, 1933-2013*, published in 2014, with an updated version that includes a new preface released in the summer of 2023. She is currently working on a full-length biography, tentatively titled *Meade at War*, a comprehensive treatment of Meade's life with a focus on his military career in the Army of the Potomac. She is a veteran faculty member at Gettysburg College's Civil War Institute and a coveted speaker at Civil War symposiums and round tables across the nation.

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/81262528556>. 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/81262528556>. The meeting ID # is 812 6252 8556.

**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

Orange Beef Satay, Citrus Salmon, Olive Oil Roasted Potatoes, Broccoli, Fruit and Nut Salad, House Made Soup du Jour, Brownies

Cost: \$32 per person

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

**Dinner reservations must be made no later than noon on Monday, December 2**

Email: Michael Margolius at:  
[membership@harrisburgcwr.org](mailto:membership@harrisburgcwr.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  
rev.mymyers2013@gmail.com

### Web Links (CTRL + click)

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

*One of the noblest duties of the living is to perpetuate the virtues and memories of the dead.*  
—Confederate Brigadier General George Gordon



The holidays are a time for us to reflect on the many blessings in our lives.

As we look back over the last 12 months, our Round Table has much to be thankful for. We've had one outstanding speaker after another, spectacularly successful field trips, scores of new enlistments, an epic 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, and the enriching camaraderie that has always been our hallmark.

Central Penn College's culinary staff have taken care of us and made our members who come out for dinner very glad they did. We will demonstrate our thanks to them in December with a substantial gratuity gleaned from the generosity of our members who come to dinner each month.

Our Veterans Day salute to those who have served in our armed forces was a roaring success. Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan's presentation on Union veterans was Homeric in its scope and eloquence, and will long be remembered. We had one of the best turnouts in years, as the photos below attest.

December offers another opportunity to hear from one of the leading scholars of the Civil War, Dr. Jennifer Murray, who will give us the benefit of her new research into the relationship between George Gordon Meade and Ulysses S. Grant during the critical Overland Campaign of 1864. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from another cutting-edge historian.

Please plan to join us for what is sure to be an enjoyable evening. Invite your friends, neighbors, and family to attend. Remember, our ability to continue to use the facilities at Central Penn College depends on robust attendance at our dinner meetings. Let's keep a good thing going!

Please remember to RSVP for dinner through our website (utilizing PayPal or a credit card) or by simply sending Michael Margolius an email by noon on Monday, December 2, so we can order enough food.

On behalf of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table's Board of Directors, I would like wish you all a happy Thanksgiving, and extend our heartfelt holiday greetings and hopes for the new year. May the holiday season bring joy, love, and harmony to you and your loved ones.

Mo Becker



We had a huge turnout in November to hear historian Brian Matthew Jordan's talk on Union veterans.



A record number of veterans joined us for dinner in November. Thank you for your service!.

## Meeting Schedule—Campaign 66

**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

**04/4/25**

*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

## *Spring Field Trip Sold Out: Waiting List Created*

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://harrisburgcwr.org/events/spring-2025-field-trip-in-the-footsteps-of-john-brown-with-dennis-frye/>. The trip is currently sold out, and our Treasurer, Steve Williamson, has created a waiting list. As registrants drop out for one reason or another, as they always do (six dropped out of the fall field trip), Steve will fill the vacated seats from the waiting list in the order registrations were received. Contact him if you would like to be placed on the waiting list.

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## *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@johnwest.com](mailto:john@johnwest.com) or 412-217-1234.

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## *Symonds Wins 2024 Gilder-Lehrman Prize for Military History*

The Harrisburg CWRT strives to recruit the best military historians in the nation as speakers. Dr. Craig Symonds, who will address our Round Table in March on *David G. Farragut and the Battle of Mobile Bay*, is one of the foremost naval historians in the country. He was the keynote speaker at the 161<sup>st</sup> Dedication Day ceremonies in Gettysburg National Cemetery in November, where Harold Holzer, who will be our Nye-Sommers lecturer in May, read Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Dr. Symonds has also been named the winner of the \$50,000 Gilder-Lehrman Prize for Military History for 2024 for his book, *Nimitz at War: Command Leadership from Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay*. See "Upcoming Events," below, for more information.



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## *Upcoming Events*

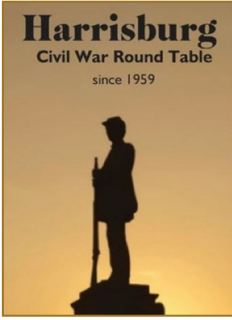
- **Wednesday, December 4, 6:30 to 7:30 pm.** Presentation of the 2024 Gilder-Lehrman Prize for Military History to Dr. Craig Symonds. Register to view this event in New York City via livestream at: <https://3256.blackbaudhosting.com/3256/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=ca97cb5f-9976-44fc-8842-1f7164d72421>.
- **Saturday, December 7, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm.** Military used book sale at US Army Heritage & Education Center in Carlisle. Also, our own Joe Boslet will play Sergeant Santa at AHEC from 1:00 to 3:00.
- **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.
- **Saturday, December 7, beginning at 6:00 pm.** Annual Antietam National Battlefield Illumination in Sharpsburg, MD, <https://www.nps.gov/anti/planyourvisit/luminary.htm>.

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## *Historical Videos*

As many of you know, the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center hosts a number of free programs, including lectures, living history events, demonstrations, speaker presentations and workshops. Many current and past programs are available to view on YouTube. Take a look! <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheUSAHEC>.





## The Dispatch

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

December, 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

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@harrisburgcwr.org

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