

Campaign 66  
Skirmish 5  
January 24, 2025

# 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.

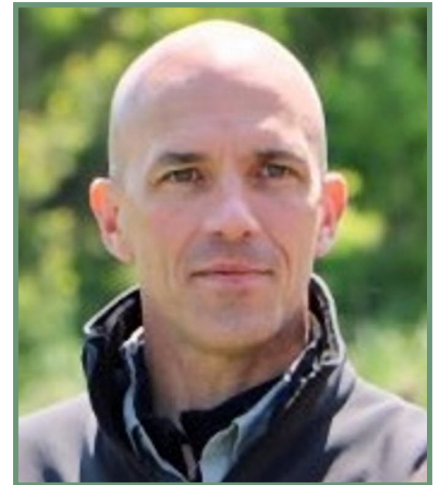
*Friday, January 24—Dr. Douglas Douds*

### *A Comparative Analysis of Meade and Lee's Commanding Machines at Gettysburg*

Please join us on Friday, January 24, as Army War College Professor Douglas G. Douds analyzes the differences between the "commanding machines" of Meade's Army of the Potomac and Lee's Army of Northern Virginia during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Staff work is one of the least studied aspects of the Civil War. Army leadership is a collective activity. At Gettysburg, Meade and Lee employed commanding machines—senior subordinate commanders and staff officers—to lead their armies. Professor Douds will compare their commanding machines' structure and processes, giving insights to the battle's outcome. His stimulating talk on this topic was one of the highlights of the 2003 Sacred Trust lectures in Gettysburg. Later on in 2023, he successfully defended a doctoral dissertation at Leeds University in England on a comparative case study of field army command at Gettysburg.

Dr. Douds is a retired Marine Colonel and a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg. He serves as Director of the Advanced Strategic Arts Program and Expeditionary Warfare in the Army War College's Department of Military Strategy, Planning and Operations. He has served as a strategist and senior speechwriter in the Chairman's Action Group on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He commanded a Marine fighter attack squadron in Iraq prior to earning his master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2010. As an F/A-18 pilot, he deployed multiple times, including two carrier deployments to the Mediterranean Sea and Persian Gulf and a western Pacific deployment. He completed the Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Instructor's course, the Navy Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun), was the top honor graduate from the Amphibious Warfare School, and received two bachelor of arts degrees, in political science and history, from Wake Forest University.



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/85922691729>. 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/85922691729>. The meeting ID # is 859 2269 1729

***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*

Grilled Chicken Provençal, Lemon Cod Fish Filet, Jasmine Rice Pilaf, Green Bean, Yellow Bean & Carrot Medley, Mixed Field Greens, House Made Soup du Jour, Rolls, butter and drinks, Assorted Cookies

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, January 20**

Email: Michael Margolius at:  
[membership@harrisburgcwr.org](mailto:membership@harrisburgcwr.org)



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rev.myers2013@gmail.com

### Web Links (CTRL + click)

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

*The first of January, 1863, was a memorable day in the progress of American liberty and civilization.  
It was the turning-point in the conflict between freedom and slavery.  
--Frederick Douglass*



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!** We have much to look forward to in the year to come, while we reflect on all we have accomplished since our Round Table was founded in 1959.

We are now at the halfway point of our 66<sup>th</sup> campaign and look forward to our first engagement of 2025 on Friday, January 24th.

We have been treated to an extraordinary slate of speakers this campaign, with more to come! Those of you who missed December's meeting missed a great talk about the relationship between Meade and Grant during the Overland Campaign.

The "Square Table," which concludes each of our meetings, is unique among Civil War round tables and is a great opportunity to interact with our speakers. The discussion at the December square table was robust and stimulating for both our members and our speaker. We hope to see more members attend upcoming square tables, and take advantage of this opportunity to interact with some of the most prominent Civil War historians in the nation.

We look forward to our field trip to Harper's Ferry and our annual Nye-Sommers lecture in May. But most of all, we look forward to the fellowship we enjoy with our members at our monthly meetings. Make a New Year's resolution to attend as many of our meetings as possible in 2025—and resolve to bring a friend!

I encourage you to attend our January engagement where you will hear an extraordinary speaker from the Army War College, Dr. Doug Douds. He served as a strategist and senior speechwriter in the Chairman's Action Group on the Joint Chiefs of Staff and commanded a U.S. Marine Corps fighter attack squadron in Iraq. You will not be disappointed! If you have ever wondered how Meade won the battle of Gettysburg only a few days after being ordered to take command of the Army of the Potomac, Dr. Douds will provide some compelling answers. A lot of the Union's success resulted from superior staff work. The same can be said for the success of our Round Table.

Mo Becker



**We had a good turnout in December to hear historian Jennifer Murray's talk on Meade, Grant and the Overland Campaign of 1864.**

### *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.

### *Meeting Schedule—Campaign 66*

**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

**06/03/25**

*We Fought at Gettysburg: The 17th Connecticut Volunteers*  
Caroline Ivanoff

## *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. As this newsletter went to press, we already have 15 on the waiting list.

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## *Looking for Help Digitizing Tapes of Past Lectures*

The HCWRT recently acquired four boxes full of VHS videocassette tapes that include a large number of lectures delivered by Dr. Richard J. Sommers and other notable speakers at past HCWRT engagements. We would like to preserve these talks by digitizing the tapes before they deteriorate and can no longer be played. Anyone interested in taking on this project should contact our programs chair, Steve Smith, at [smith337@erau.edu](mailto:smith337@erau.edu) or 717-433-0209.

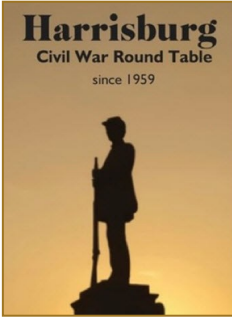
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## *Upcoming Events*

- **Every Saturday and Sunday in January & February:** The Winter Lecture Series at the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitors Center. Seating is limited. Free tickets are handed out the day of the lecture beginning at 9:00 am. Lectures start at 1:30 pm. For a complete list of upcoming speakers and topics, go to: <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/gettysburg-winter-programs.htm>
- **Saturday, January 11:** HCWRT Winter Board Meeting via Zoom, beginning at 10:00 am.
- **Monday, January 27:** Dr. Bennett Patten will discuss his book *Somewhere Toward Freedom: Sherman's March and the Story of America's Largest Emancipation* at the National Civil War Museum. This live book talk begins at 5:30 pm; it is free and open to the public.
- **Monday, February 17:** HCWRT member James Hayney will portray Abraham Lincoln and discuss his battle with slavery and the issues involved in passing the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment in a special Presidents' Day salute at the National Civil War Museum. The program begins at 1:00 pm; it is free and open to the public.



Was longtime member Craig Caba naughty or nice?? President Santa Becker is checking his list



# The Dispatch

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

January, 2025

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