

## Newsletter of The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

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

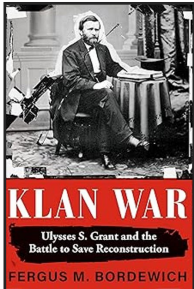
Meetings held at Central Penn College Conference Center and virtually on Zoom.

Friday, February 21 — Fergus M. Bordewich

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

In commemoration of Black History Month, join us on Friday, February 21 as best-selling author Fergus M. Bordewich tells the story of how President Ulysses S. Grant wielded the power of the federal government to dismantle the Ku Klux Klan in an effort to save Reconstruction.

The KKK, which Mr. Bordewich defines as “the first organized terrorist movement in American history,” rose from the ashes of the Civil War. At its peak in the early 1870s, the Klan boasted many tens of thousands of members, and their mission was to obliterate the muscular democratic power of newly emancipated Black Americans and their white allies, often by the most horrifying means imaginable. To repel the virulent tidal wave of violence, President Ulysses S. Grant waged a two-term battle against both armed Southern enemies of Reconstruction and Northern politicians seduced by visions of postwar conciliation, testing the limits of the federal government in determining the extent of states’ rights.



Since the 1970s, as an independent writer and historian based in Washington, DC, Mr. Bordewich has authored a dozen books, including *Congress at War: How Republican Reformers Fought the Civil War, Defied Lincoln, Ended Slavery, and Remade America*; *The First Congress: How James Madison, George Washington, and a Group of Extraordinary Men Invented the Government*; *America’s Great Debate: Henry Clay, Stephen A. Douglas, and the Compromise that Preserved the Union*; *Washington: The Making of the American Capital* and *Bound for Canaan: The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America*. His talk will be based on his latest work, *Klan War: Ulysses S. Grant and the Battle to Save Reconstruction*, a *New Yorker* best book of the year in 2023.

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/81484729387>. 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/81484729387>. The meeting ID # is 814 8472 9387

*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

Cider Brined Pork Loin, Parmesan Crusted Cod, Smashed Yukon Gold Potatoes, Green Beans, 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, February 17**

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



#### Executive Officers

**President**, Mo Becker  
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**Vice President**, Mark Blanchard  
mblanchard@cvschools.org  
**Treasurer**, Steve Williamson  
steve.williamson.wccs@outlook.com  
**Secretary**, Rebecca Myers  
rev.myers2013@gmail.com

#### Web Links (CTRL + click)

[harrisburgcwrt.org](https://harrisburgcwrt.org)  
**Register For:**  
MEMBERSHIP  
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## President's Pen

*The work does not end with the abolition of slavery, but only begins.*  
--Frederick Douglass



Our Round Table is on a roll! Dr. Doug Douds delivered a tremendously stimulating talk at our January engagement that left us on the edge of our seats. We had 23 additional listeners on Zoom. Eighteen of our members stayed on for the square table, the best attendance in years, and enjoyed some robust repartee with our speaker.

We have another opportunity to hear from a world-class author in February. Fergus Bordewich is one of the most prolific freelance historians in the nation, and his most recent book, which recounts how Ulysses S. Grant sent federal troops into the South to destroy the KKK and save Reconstruction, received enormous critical acclaim when it was published in 2023. I can't think of a better way to commemorate Black History Month and hope you will all come out to show your support for our efforts to bring speakers of this caliber to Harrisburg.

As part of our recruiting efforts, one member has graciously offered to sponsor the dinner costs of one high school or college teacher and three students who attend our meeting. Please let our Membership Chair know if you have invited any teachers and students who plan to attend, so we can coordinate dinner payments with this generous member.

Your donations for our books, magazines and Silent Auction items have enhanced our ability to contribute to battlefield preservation. Thank you.

Our Round Table does not run itself but needs many volunteers to keep it going. We have a few key positions as committee members that need to be filled next year—members are needed to assist the Chairpersons of the Preservation, Programs, Field Trips, Membership, and Communication committees. Beginning at 5:00 pm on February 21, you can learn more about what Board members do on behalf of our Round Table. Please join us at 5:00 that evening to learn more about your Board. Our social time begins at 5:30 with our meeting beginning at 6:00 with dinner about 6:30. After our speaker, our "Square Table" follows— an opportunity for extended Q&A with the speaker that is unique to our Round Table. It all makes for a wonderful night out.

Invite your friends to join us February 21 for a delicious meal, a thought-provoking lecture, and to experience the rich traditions of one of the oldest and most celebrated Civil War Round Tables in the nation.

Mo Becker



**We had another good turnout in January to hear Doug Douds' spellbinding comparative analysis of the commanding machines of the opposing armies at Gettysburg.**

## Meeting Schedule—Campaign 66

**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: Wait List Created*

Our spring field trip entitled "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 trip remains 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 had 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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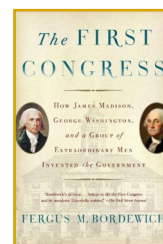
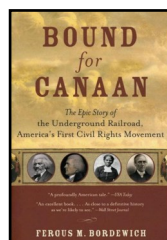
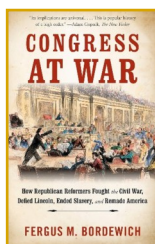
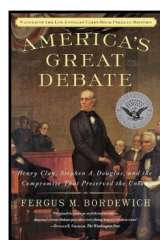
## *Upcoming Events*

- **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>
- **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.
- **Thursday, February 27:** Author and Licensed Battlefield Guide Jim Hessler will discuss "Humphrey's Division at Gettysburg" at the Gettysburg CWRT's February meeting at the Adams County Historical Society at 7:00 pm. The talk will also be livestreamed.
- **Saturday, March 8:** Military Used Book Sale at AHEC in Carlisle, from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm.

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## *Speaking of Books*

Our speaker tonight has authored multiple books on most interesting historical subjects:



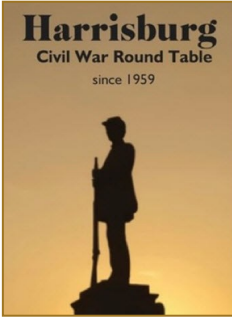
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## *Silent Auction of Civil War Chess Set*



We began taking silent auction bids at our January engagement on a magnificent, hand-painted Civil War chess set that was donated by one of our members. We will continue to take bids and announce the winner at our February engagement.

Anyone wishing to bid, or to donate other items for silent auction, should contact Norm Daniels. Proceeds will support our battlefield preservation efforts.



## The Dispatch

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

February, 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

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, membership@harrisburgcwr.org

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