

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, May 16 — Harold Holzer

Brought Forth on This Continent: Abraham Lincoln and American Immigration

Join us on Friday, May 16 for our annual Nye-Sommers Lecture, presented by Professor Harold Holzer, one of the country's leading authorities on Abraham Lincoln and winner of the coveted Gilder-Lehrman Lincoln Prize.

In the three decades before the Civil War, some ten million foreign-born people settled in the United States, forever altering the nation's demographics, culture, and—perhaps most significantly—voting patterns. America's newest residents fueled the national economy, but they also wrought enormous changes in the political landscape and exposed an ugly, at times violent, vein of nativist bigotry. Abraham Lincoln's rise ran parallel to this turmoil. Tensions over immigration would split and ultimately destroy Lincoln's Whig Party years before the Civil War. Yet the war made clear just how important immigrants were, and how interwoven they had become in American society.

Professor Holzer's lecture will chart Lincoln's political career through the lens of immigration, from his role as a member of an increasingly nativist political party to his evolution into an immigration champion, a progression that would come at the same time as he refined his views on abolition and Black citizenship. As Professor Holzer writes in his latest book, *Brought Forth on This Continent*, "The Civil War could not have been won without Lincoln's leadership; but it could not have been fought without the immigrant soldiers who served and, by the tens of thousands, died that the 'nation might live.'" An utterly captivating and illuminating work, *Brought Forth on This Continent*, assesses Lincoln's life and legacy in a wholly original way, unveiling remarkable similarities between the nineteenth century and the twenty-first.

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/85971439728> . 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/85971439728> . The meeting ID # is 859 7143 9728.



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

Honey Glazed Ham, Lemon Cod Fish Filet, Scalloped Potatoes, Broccoli, 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, May 12

Email: Michael Margolius at:
membership@harrisburgcwrt.org



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President's Pen

"I regard our emigrants as one of the principal replenishing streams appointed by Providence to repair the ravages of internal war, and its wastes of national strength and health."

—Abraham Lincoln



Campaign 66 has been a thundering success for the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table. Each of our speakers has swung for the fences and hit a home run. April's engagement was our most successful to date. Fifty-eight of our members attended our delicious dinner, 10 more came just for the lecture, and another 12 joined us via Zoom.

Chris Mackowski delivered an enthralling talk on Ulysses S. Grant's last battle, keeping us all on the edge of our seats. It made for a memorable evening of good food, camaraderie, and stimulating historical analysis—which is what sets our Round Table apart.

We are in for a real treat for our annual Nye-Sommers lecture on Friday, May 16 when one of the most renowned Civil War historians and a leading authority on Abraham Lincoln, Harold Holzer, will give us new insights into Lincoln's leadership and the thousands of immigrants who helped fill the depleted ranks of the Union Army and win the war.

Let's show our support for our distinguished speaker, who is coming all the way from New York City, and our reverence for the memory of Colonel Nye and Dr. Sommers by turning out in unprecedented numbers. This is an "all hands-on deck" event and one talk you definitely do not want to miss.

It is with sadness that I inform you of the passing of a pre-eminent Civil War naval historian, Dwight Hughes. After graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1967, Dwight served our country afloat and ashore around the globe, aboard ships from small boats to aircraft carriers, including tours with riverine forces in Vietnam and with resupply forces at Diego Garcia. Dwight melded his love of the sea and ships with a lifetime study of naval history. His second career was software engineering, primarily in electronic mapping for the U.S. Geological Survey. A ridge in Antarctica is named for him in recognition of contributions to Antarctica databases and information services. For his naval service, Dwight earned both the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Dwight authored books about the cruise of the C.S.S. Shenandoah, the Battle of Hampton Roads, and co-edited *The Civil War on the Water*. He will be greatly missed.

I look forward to seeing you all on Friday, May 16 for what promises to be another in a series of outstanding presentations by a nationally-known speaker who is at the top of his game.

Mo Becker



We had an excellent turnout for Dr. Chris Mackowski's mesmerizing talk on Grant's last battle at our April engagement.

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 66

Thursday, 06/05/25

We Fought at Gettysburg: The 17th Connecticut Volunteers
Carolyn Ivanoff

Congratulations to Dr. Cooper Wingert!



Cooper H. Wingert, who has been a member of our Round Table since he was 12 and went on to graduate *summa cum laude* from Dickinson with a B.A. in History, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at Georgetown University on April 15.

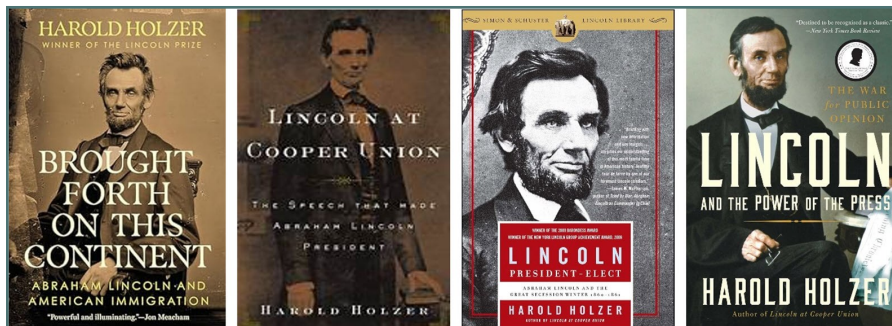
He has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Civil War & Reconstruction History at Fordham University in New York City.

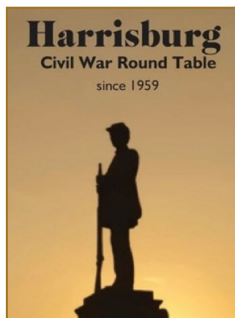
*We could not be prouder of Dr. Wingert,
and we predict a brilliant future for him in academe!*

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, May 3:** Spring Field Trip to Harpers Ferry and Charles Town, WV to trace John Brown's footsteps. [Trip remains sold out, with several on a waiting list].
- **Saturday, May 3, 1:00 pm:** The National Civil War Museum hosts a live interpretive presentation by Mary Ann Jung on *Clara Barton: Red Cross Angel*. Register at nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.
- **Thursday, May 8 to Sunday, May 11:** Gettysburg Film Festival on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the German surrender in WWII. <https://gettysburgfilmfestival.org/2025-festival/>.
- **Thursday, May 15, 6:30 pm:** Dr. Damian Shiels will speak at the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitors Center on *Green and Blue: Irish Americans in the Union Military*. Register for free tickets to be sure you have a seat. <https://cart.gettysburgfoundation.org/33662>.
- **Thursday, May 15, 7:00 pm:** The National Civil War Museum hosts a conversation with the authors of *Waging War for Freedom with the 54th Massachusetts*, via Zoom only. Register at nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.
- **Thursday, May 15, 7:30 pm:** Hershey CWRT hosts Bert Dunkerley speaking on *The Surrender of Greensboro, NC* at the VVA Hall, 8000 Derry Street, Harrisburg, live and on Zoom.
- **Thursday, May 22, 7:00 pm:** Gettysburg CWRT hosts Kevin Pawlak speaking on *The Second Manassas Campaign* at the Adams Co. Historical Society, live and livestreamed on Facebook.
- **Thursday, May 29, 7:00 pm:** The National Civil War Museum hosts a conversation with Brown University historian Michael Vorenberg on his new book *Lincoln's Peace: The Struggle to End the American Civil War*, via Zoom only. Register at nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.
- **Wednesday, June 4, 6:30 pm** (doors open 6:00 pm): USAHEC in Carlisle hosts Rick Atkinson speaking on *The Fate of the Day*, the second volume of his trilogy on the American Revolution.

A Selection from Our Speaker's Many Books





130th PA Monument
Antietam National
Battlefield

The Dispatch

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

May, 2025

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



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Harrisburg Civil War Round Table Enlistment Form

Membership

☐ Current Member Renewal

☐ New Member Enlistment

☐ Individual \$24

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☐ 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