

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, October 10 — James A. Hessler Dan Sickles: His Life and Legacy

Join us on Friday, October 10 for an entertaining presentation by historian James A. Hessler on one of the most controversial Union commanders of the Civil War.

The mere mention of Dan Sickles can still provoke arguments among Gettysburg enthusiasts. Whether it was Sickles's infamous murder of Philip Barton Key, his seeming disobedience of orders at Gettysburg, or his post-battle attempts to declare himself the "Hero of Gettysburg," Sickles packed a lot of life into his 95 years. Mr. Hessler will explore the highs and lows of Sickles's colorful career. Whether you love to hate Sickles or hate to love him, Mr. Hessler will discuss why Sickles remains one of the most monumental figures in the Gettysburg story.

Mr. Hessler has served as a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park since 2003. He has authored or co-authored four books on the Gettysburg campaign, including: *Sickles at Gettysburg* (2009), *Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg* (2015), and *Gettysburg's Peach Orchard* (2019). His latest book, *The First Day at Gettysburg*, was released last spring. He has also written articles for publication, including in *Gettysburg Magazine*. His published work has received several distinguished book awards. He co-hosts the popular *Battle of Gettysburg Podcast*. He has made numerous media appearances including History Channel, NPR, Travel Channel, PCN-TV, and the American Battlefield Trust. He is a frequent guest speaker at Civil War Round Tables and other historical organizations. He last spoke to our Round Table in 2023 on what General Reynolds knew on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, and when he knew it.

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/89759214997>. 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/kcN981AuG0>. The meeting ID # is 856 0870 8456.



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 Provencal, Parmesan Crusted Cod, Jasmine Rice Pilaf, Green Bean, Yellow Bean & Carrot Medley, Fruit and Nut Salad, House Made Soup du Jour, Brownies

Cost: \$35 per person

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

**Dinner reservations must be made no later than
noon on Monday, October 6**

Email: Michael Margolius at:
membership@harrisburgcwrt.org

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"The whole damn battlefield is my monument!"

– Major General Daniel E. Sickles



We successfully kicked off our 67th campaign year in September with a riveting presentation by the President and CEO of the National Civil War Museum, Wayne E. Motts, who provided many fascinating insights into the U.S. Army Regulars who fought at Gettysburg in July of 1863. More than 50 of our members turned out. Our group photo below captures the energy and camaraderie of the event. We hope even more of our members will come out for our October engagement, and bring plenty of guests with them, for Jim Hessler's entertaining discussion of the life and legacy of Dan Sickles. Sickles was a real character; it should be a fascinating presentation!

Please RSVP for dinner to our membership chair by email at: membership@harrisburgcwrt.org **no later than noon on Monday, October 6.** Central Penn College requires us to report our headcount for dinner by Monday so they can order sufficient food for our dinner meeting. As a courtesy to the limited staff at Central Penn who work so hard to support us, please help us give them an accurate count by Monday.

We're hoping to get all our members to reenlist by the end of October. If you have already done so, many thanks. If you have yet to "re-up," you can do so on the membership page on our website, you can mail in the form on page 4 of this newsletter, or you can see our Treasurer at our October meeting.

Our Round Table is unique in many ways, and our speakers often compliment us on our Square Table, which is held at the end of each engagement. Members may ask the speaker about any Civil War-related topic. Ten of our members spoke with Wayne Motts in September on topics ranging from his plans for the National Civil War Museum to virtual reality. Don't miss the chance to compare notes with one of the most popular Licensed Battlefield Guides in Gettysburg when Jim Hessler joins us in October.

Looking further down the road, please plan to attend our annual Veterans Day engagement on Friday, November 7, 2025. See the article on page 3 for more details.

I look forward to seeing you all again on Friday, October 10.

Mo Becker



We celebrated Wayne Motts' return to the National Civil War Museum at our September engagement.



The HCWRT recruited new members at USAHEC's Army Expo in Carlisle in September



Upcoming Events

- ♦ **Thursday, October 2, 7:00 pm:** The National Civil War Museum hosts a book talk [via Zoom](#) with Dr. Wesley Moody, author of *Hero of Fort Sumter: The Extraordinary Life of Robert Anderson*.
- ♦ **Friday, October 3, 7:30 pm & Saturday, October 4, 3:00 pm:** The Majestic Theater in Gettysburg will be offering two showings of "Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground," a one-man play starring Tony award-winning actor John Rubinstein as our 34th president. To buy tickets, go to: <https://gettysburgmajestic.showare.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=415>
- ♦ **Friday to Sunday, October 3-5:** Antietam Institute Fifth Annual Fall Conference, *Beyond the Battle: Civilians, Casualties and Remembering the Bloodiest Day in Military History*. For more information, go to: <https://antietaminstitute.org/2025-fall-conference/>
- ♦ **Thursday, October 16, 7:30 pm:** Dennis E. Frye will speak on "John Brown's Final Prisoner" at the Hershey CWRT, Vietnam Vets of America Hall, 8000 Derry Street, Harrisburg (live and livestreamed).
- ♦ **Wednesday, October 22, 6:30 pm:** The Annual Perspectives on Military History Bradley lecture at USAHEC. [Speaker and topic TBA]. Doors open at 6:00 pm. <https://ahec.armywarcollege.edu/events.cfm>
- ♦ **Thursday, October 23, 7:00 pm:** Gettysburg CWRT hosts Dr. Kevin MacKenzie speaking on "The Founding of West Virginia" at the Adams Co. Historical Society (live and livestreamed).
- ♦ **Saturday, October 25, all day:** Our annual fall field trip with Scott Mingus following the route of Jeb Stuart's cavaliers. See related story below.

Fall & Spring Field Trips Filling Up Fast

Our fall field trip, entitled "On the Trail of Jeb Stuart's Cavaliers," will take place on Saturday, October 25. Scott L. Mingus, Sr., who guided us in the footsteps of Jubal Early's troops last fall, is back by popular demand. The trip will follow the route taken by Stuart from Union Mills, MD, to Hanover, PA, and on to Jefferson, Dover, Dillsburg, Carlisle, and Gettysburg.

Our spring field trip, entitled "Lee's First Defeat: The Battle(s) of South Mountain," will take place on Saturday, May 2, 2026. We will visit Crampton's Gap, Turner's Gap, and Fox's Gap. Lunch will be at the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown, WV. Dennis E. Frye, who has been our guide on five previous trips, is also back by popular demand. Cost per person is \$95.00 for each trip.

As this newsletter went to press, there were only two seats left for the fall field trip, and five seats left for the spring trip. Anyone interested in reserving one of the remaining seats should contact our Field Trip Reservationist, Steve Williamson, at 717-580-0443 or by email at: steve.williamson.WCCS@outlook.com. If all the remaining seats are sold, Steve will begin a waiting list for those who have indicated a desire to participate. Given difficulties with our website over the summer, we did not post the flyers for these trips online. **The only way to reserve a seat is to contact Steve Williamson directly.**

Veterans to Dine for Free at November Engagement

Our annual Veterans Day engagement is coming up on Friday, November 7. Gettysburg NMP Lead Ranger Dan Welch, who spoke to us last campaign on the defense of Culp's Hill, will return with a talk on David Wills and the creation of the National Cemetery in Gettysburg. What better way to celebrate Veterans Day than to learn how those who did not survive the battle were honored? As in past years, veterans are invited to join us and dine for free. Please invite friends and neighbors who have served in uniform to participate in this salute to those who have worn the cloth of the nation, and encourage them to consider becoming members of our Round Table.

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 67

11/7/25

David Wills & the Creation of the National Cemetery

Dan Welch

12/5/25

Ike and the Civil War

Dan Vermilya

01/23/26

TBA

02/20/26

Sherman's March: A Journey Toward Freedom

Bennett Parten

03/13/26

TBA

04/10/26

From Frederick to Sharpsburg: The Maryland Campaign before Antietam

Steven Stotemyer

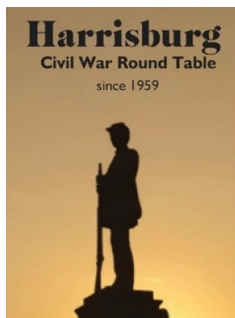
05/15/25 — Nye-Sommers Lecture

A Campaign of Giants: The Battle for Petersburg

A. Wilson Greene

06/05/26

TBA



130th PA Monument
Antietam National
Battlefield

The Dispatch

Harrisburg Civil War Round Table
P.O. Box 115
Dillsburg, PA 17019-0115

October 2025

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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

Annual Dues

- ☐ Individual \$30
- ☐ Family \$45
- ☐ Full Time Student \$5

Donations*

- ☐ \$25
- ☐ \$50
- ☐ \$100
- ☐ Other _____ (specify)

Individual or Family Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Contacts:

For questions email: Michael Margolius, Membership Chair, membership@harrisburgcwrt.org

Mail checks to: Harrisburg Civil War Round Table, P.O. Box 115, Dillsburg, PA 17019-0115

***If your donation is made in memory or in recognition of someone, please provide name(s) here:** _____
