

Newsletter of The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

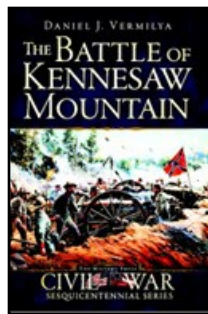
Welcome to our fellowship forum where we discuss our past, emphasizing remembrance, education & preservation.

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

Friday, December 5 — Daniel J. Vermilya *Eisenhower and the Civil War*

Join us on Friday, December 5 for our annual holiday party, and a presentation by Ranger Dan Vermilya on the many close connections our 34th president had with the Civil War.

President Eisenhower had a lifelong interest in history, leading him to purchase his Gettysburg farm. He and his family lived in Gettysburg during World War 1, when he commanded Camp Colt, a tank training facility situated on the Gettysburg battlefield. Gettysburg later became a second home and retreat during his two terms as president, and the place to which he retired after his days in the White House. He spoke often on the meaning and legacy of the Civil War, gave tours of the Gettysburg battlefield to visiting dignitaries, guests and friends, and played an active role in preserving the battlefield and shaping the memory of Gettysburg.



Mr. Vermilya is a full-time park ranger at Eisenhower National Historic Site, where he has conducted thousands of tours of the Eisenhower home and grounds. He previously worked at Antietam National Battlefield, Monocacy National Battlefield, and Gettysburg National Military Park. He has organized WWI, WWII and Korean War weekends on the Eisenhower farm that have become must-attend events for reenactors and history lovers alike. He is the author of several books on the American Civil War.

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/83199541021>. No password is required. To dial in by phone, call 1-301-715-8592 or click: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/83199541021?signature=vjaHjgn85v2PR_esr8m5-EWMsxXSCeWdiSaO6aXqb_I. The meeting ID # is 831 9954 1021.

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, Mediterranean Cod, Olive Oil Roasted Potatoes, Broccoli, Fruit and Nut Salad, House Made Soup du Jour, Brownies

Cost: \$35 per person

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

Dinner reservations must be made no later than noon on Sunday, November 23

Email: Michael Margolius at: membership@harrisburgcwr.org

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NOTE

President's Pen

*"There is no glory in battle worth the blood it costs."
—President Dwight D. Eisenhower*



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 spectacular speaker after another, fabulous field trips, numerous new enlistments, and the camaraderie that marks our organization as one of the premier CWRTs in the nation.

Central Penn's culinary staff have taken excellent care of our members and we are very glad they did. We will demonstrate our thanks to them in December with a substantial gratuity from members who have attended our dinners this fall.

Our Veteran's Day salute to those who have served in our armed forces was a booming success, and will be remembered with fondness. Ranger Dan Welch inspired us all with his brilliant presentation on David Wills and the creation of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg.

December offers another opportunity to hear from one of Gettysburg's most experienced park rangers. Dan Vermilya, who has given thousands of tours at the Eisenhower National Historic Site, will share unique insights he has acquired over the years into President Eisenhower's abiding interest in and passion for the Civil War. Don't miss this chance to learn about Ike's long association with the town of Gettysburg, his efforts to preserve the battlefield, and the long list of world leaders who beat a path to his door at the Eisenhower farm.

Please remember to RSVP by noon on Sunday, November 23 to Michael Margolius, our Membership Chair, at: membership@harrisburgcwrt.org to ensure your seat at dinner, so Central Penn can order enough food.

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

Mo Becker



Dan Welch gave a spellbinding talk on November 10 on the creation of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg.

Veterans' Day — Sixteen Veterans Attended November's Engagement



Upcoming Events

- ♦ **Sunday, November 16 thru Friday, November 21:** Ken Burns' new documentary on *The American Revolution*, years in the making, airs each night on PBS from 8:00 to 10:00 pm. If you miss an episode, you can also watch it on the PBS website, and on a variety of streaming services. For more information, go to: <https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/the-american-revolution>
- ♦ **Wednesday, November 19, 10:15 am:** 162nd Annual Dedication Day ceremony in Gettysburg National Cemetery. Dr. Jonathan White will deliver the keynote address. Event is free.
- ♦ **Wednesday, November 19, 7:00 pm:** 63rd Annual Fortenbaugh lecture at the Majestic Theater in Gettysburg with David W. Blight (Yale), Drew Gilpin Faust (Harvard), and Stephanie McCurry (Columbia) discussing "The Past, Present, and Future of the Civil War." Free tickets can be obtained from the theater's box office by calling 717-337-8200. The lecture will also be livestreamed through the Civil War Institute's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsv5Vb22JoNvOZf9z-qjbw>
- ♦ **Thursday, November 20, 7:30 pm:** Hershey CWRT hosts Scott L. Mingus, Sr. discussing "Confederate General William 'Extra Billy' Smith: From Virginia's Statehouse to Gettysburg Scapegoat" at the Vietnam Veterans of America hall at 8000 Derry Street in Harrisburg (live and livestreamed).
- ♦ **Thursday, December 4, 6:00 pm:** Gettysburg CWRT holds its annual holiday banquet at the Dobbin House. Dr. James J. Broomall will speak on "John B. Bachelder."
- ♦ **Saturday, December 6, 6:00 pm:** Annual Antietam Battlefield Illumination. See Antietam website for more information: <https://www.nps.gov/anti/planyourvisit/luminary.htm>

New Civil War Series on YouTube

Wayne Motts, a member of our HCWRT and CEO of the National Civil War Museum has started a series on YouTube—*Touring Tuesdays: Civil War Adventures*. Search YouTube "National Civil War Museum Touring Tuesdays" and Subscribe..

So far he presented **Tombstone Tales—Civil War Resting Places**—William Quantrill, Samuel Elder, and more to come; **The Iverson Brigade at Gettysburg**, **Black Courage—Pennsylvanians in the 54th**, **Return to the Battlefield**—Diary of George Miller, 136th New York and more Gettysburg artifacts to come..

Waiting List Started for Spring Field Trip

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. Again, cost per person is \$95.00.

As this newsletter goes to press, the trip is sold out, and a waiting list has been started. Anyone interested in getting on the waiting list should contact our Field Trip Reservationist, Steve Williamson, at 717-580-0443 or by email at: steve.williamson.WCCS@outlook.com. A lot can happen between now and May, and some who signed up will undoubtedly fall out in the months ahead. In the past, we have been able to accommodate most who were on our waiting lists. The only way to get on the waiting list is to contact Steve Williamson directly.

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 67

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 Stotelmyer

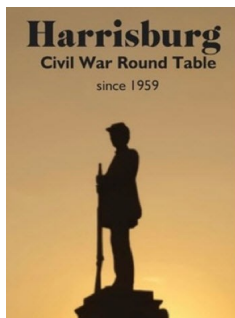
05/15/25 — Nye-Sommers Lecture

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

December 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

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@harrisburgcwr.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:** _____