

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, November 7 — Dan Welch

"Acting as an agent for Governor Curtin"

David Wills & the Creation of the National Cemetery

Join us on Friday, November 7 for our annual salute to veterans, and a stimulating presentation by Ranger Dan Welch on the prominent Gettysburg attorney who moved heaven and earth to create the National Cemetery in Gettysburg.

More than any other, Gettysburg citizen and prominent lawyer David Wills ensured that the Union soldiers who gave their last full measure of devotion had a final and fitting resting place. From its conception in July 1863 until the dedication of the Soldiers' National Monument in July 1869, Wills worked tirelessly on the cemetery project, including the proposition of holding a dedication ceremony and providing President Abraham Lincoln a quiet room to finish his "few appropriate remarks."

Mr. Welch is Lead Ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park. He formerly served as an educator with a public school district in northeast Ohio. Previously, he served as the education programs coordinator for the Gettysburg Foundation, and as a seasonal park ranger at Gettysburg. He is the editor of the long-running *Gettysburg Magazine* and has been a contributing member at Emerging Civil War for over nine years. He is the coauthor of two works in the Emerging Civil War Series: *The Last Road North: A Guide to the Gettysburg Campaign, 1863 and Never Such A Campaign: The Battle of Second Manassas, August 28-30, 1862*. Mr. Welch co-edited several volumes in the Emerging Civil War's Tenth Anniversary Series. He is also the co-author of *Ohio at Antietam: The Buckeye State's Sacrifice on America's Bloodiest Day* with the History Press. He last spoke to our Round Table in 2023 on George Sears Greene's Brigade's defense of Culp's Hill.

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/83367266856>. 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/kdx2xAd0By>. The meeting ID # is 833 6726 6856.

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

Tuscan Pork Tenderloin, Citrus Salmon, Smashed Yukon Gold Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots, Mixed Field Greens, House Made Soup du Jour, Assorted Cookies

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 Sunday, November 2

Email: Michael Margolius at:
membership@harrisburgcwrt.org

Executive Officers

President, Mo Becker
mdbecker132@comcast.net

Vice President, Mark Blanchard
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Treasurer, Robbie Kribell
treasurer@harrisburgcwrt.org

Secretary, Rebecca Myers
revmyers2013@gmail.com

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NOTE

President's Pen

*"It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this."
—from President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*



Our annual Veterans Day engagement, which will take place on Friday, November 7, has traditionally been one of our best attended events of the year, and for good reason. It is our opportunity to salute those who have worn the nation's cloth, and all that entails. Please consider inviting a veteran as your guest and being a part of our November engagement. All veterans are encouraged to wear their medals. In honor of their service, veterans who attend our dinner will enjoy a free meal courtesy of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table.

Please RSVP by noon on Sunday, November 2, 2025 to our Membership Chair, Michael Margolius, at membership@harrisburgcwrt.org and inform him if you are, or your guest is, a veteran. Bring a neighbor and bring a friend! Remember: every member is a recruiter for our Round Table!

Our Treasurer, Robbie Kribell has submitted her resignation and will conclude her duties following our November meeting. During her time as Treasurer, Robbie has been a tireless worker who performed her duties in an admirable manner. She plans to remain a member of our Round Table, and we look forward to seeing her at future engagements.

Central Penn College has informed us that they now require us to provide our numbers for dinner two weeks prior to our meeting, effective in advance of our December engagement. This change requires that our members **MUST** respond with RSVPs that they will be attending to our Membership Chair at least seven days earlier than you do presently. You should plan on responding with your attendance by November 23 for our December 5 meeting. See the article on page 3 for more on December's event.

I hope you understand that we need to accommodate Central Penn's request, and ask that you adjust to this change in the deadline to RSVP to our Membership Chair so Central Penn can prepare enough meals. We don't want to run out of food for those attending our dinner meeting. We will publish our newsletter well in advance of the new RSVP deadline. ***We need to make this work. The continued vitality of our Round Table depends on it.***

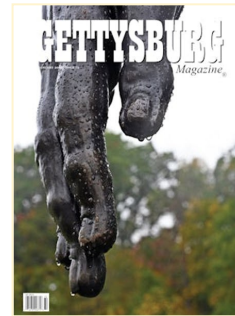
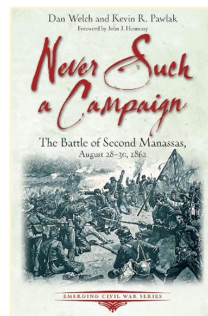
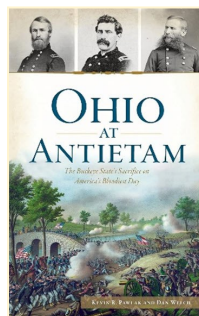
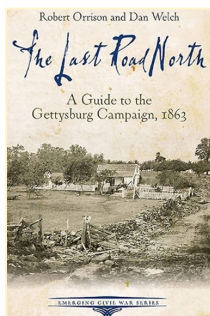
In the picture below, you can see the smiles of those who attended Jim Hessler's outstanding presentation in October and gained "a leg up" with what they learned about Dan Sickles.

I look forward to seeing you all again on Friday, November 7. Let's show our support for our speaker, who has been impacted by the government shutdown, and show our appreciation for all he does to keep Civil War history alive.

Mo Becker



Jim Hessler regaled us in October on the Life and LEGacy of Major General Dan Sickles. It was very entertaining!



Upcoming Events

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Saturday, November 15, 1:00 pm:** 69th Annual Remembrance Day parade in downtown Gettysburg. Hundreds of reenactors from both sides of the Civil War will march.
- ◆ **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-gjbw>
- ◆ **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).

Updates on Our Fall & Spring Field Trips

- ◆ Our fall field trip, entitled *On the Trail of Jeb Stuart's Cavaliers*, will take place this 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. Cost per person is only \$95.00.
- ◆ 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 went to press, there was only one seat left for the fall field trip, and the spring trip was already sold out. Anyone interested in filling the one empty seat should **immediately** contact our Field Trip Reservationist, Steve Williamson, at 717-580-0443 or by email at: steve.williamson.WCCS@outlook.com.
Anyone interested in being put on the waiting list for the spring field trip should do the same. 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. 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.

Dan Vermilya to Address December Engagement

Mark your calendars now, and plan to join us on Friday, December 5 for our annual Christmas party and a stimulating talk by Dan Vermilya, Lead Ranger at the Eisenhower National Historical Site, on *Eisenhower and the Civil War*. Watch for more details in our December newsletter.

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 67

12/5/25

Eisenhower 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

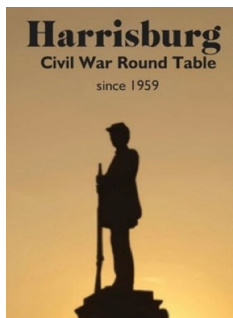
From Frederick to Sharpsburg: The Maryland Campaign before Antietam
Steven Stotelmyer

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

November 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@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:** _____