

## 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 20 — Bennett Parten *Sherman's March: A Journey Toward Freedom*

Join us on Friday, February 20 as we celebrate Black History Month with a presentation by Dr. Bennett Parten based on his highly-acclaimed book, *Someplace Toward Freedom: Sherman's March and the Story of America's Largest Emancipation*.

In the fall of 1864, Gen. William T. Sherman led his army through Atlanta, blazing a path of destruction as they headed east across the state to Savannah. While the army marched through town after Confederate town, plantation owners fled. But even before they did so, slaves self-emancipated by physically joining the Union lines. By the time the army seized Savannah in December, as many as 20,000 enslaved people had attached themselves to Sherman's army in the expectation that the company would help free them.



Dr. Parten's book is a new, breakthrough account that reframes Sherman's March as the largest liberation event in American history. His compelling narrative is the first to focus on the myriad stories of the enslaved individuals who self-emancipated. It is a journey told through the lens of resilience, hope, and the beginning sparks of Reconstruction. Dr. Parten is an associate professor of history at Georgia Southern University. He is a native of Royston, GA, and currently lives in Savannah. He completed his PhD in history at Yale University in 2022.

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/84447334930>. No password is required. To dial in by phone, call 1-301-715-8592 or click on the following link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/84447334930/invitations?signature=xKXmmuGVfytcBk1udpivk3tpp\\_lpq77vYoq51sukGO](https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/84447334930/invitations?signature=xKXmmuGVfytcBk1udpivk3tpp_lpq77vYoq51sukGO). The meeting ID # is 844 4733 4930.

*Zoom participants should join the meeting by 7:00 pm.*

5:30 pm—Doors Open  
6:00 pm—Call to Order  
6:30 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: \$35 per person

pay at the door or on our website: [harrisburgcwrt.org/events](http://harrisburgcwrt.org/events)



**Dinner reservations must be made no later than noon on Sunday, February 8**

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

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NOTE



## President's Pen

*War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it; and those who brought war into our country deserve all the curses and maledictions a people can pour out.*  
— William Tecumseh Sherman

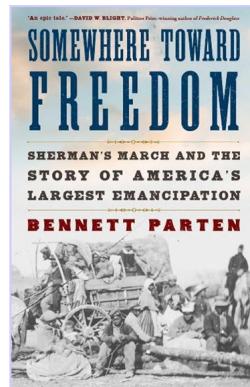


It is hard to believe February is already here. We are in the middle of Campaign 67 and are already planning for Campaign 68. Time flies when you're having fun! What have we accomplished during the past six months? We've heard from one great speaker after another. Our members and their guests have beaten a path to our door. Your donations for our books, magazines and Civil War paraphernalia at each engagement have enhanced our ability to contribute to battlefield preservation. Our spring field trip to South Mountain sold out months in advance. And we've recruited 20 new members since July. We're on a roll!

Our February lecturer, Dr. Bennett Parten, is one of the most sought-after young speakers in the country. We're flying him up from his home in Savannah for the event. You won't want to miss his entertaining and illuminating presentation on Sherman's famous march through Georgia. While most historians have interpreted Sherman's march from the perspective of total war, you will hear about it from the perspective of thousands of newly-emancipated refugees who followed in Sherman's wake.

Signing up for our February 20 engagement is easy. **By noon on Sunday, February 8**, contact Michael Margolius, our dedicated membership chair, via email at [membership@harrisburgcwr.org](mailto:membership@harrisburgcwr.org) to confirm your attendance and indicate whether you will pay at the door or online. Or, visit our website no later than February 8, under the Events tab, click on the announcement, select February as the month for dinner, then sign in, confirm your attendance, and pay via PayPal. Remember, if you confirm your attendance, it entails an obligation to pay, as we're committed to covering the cost of your dinner.

Then join us at 5:30 on February 20 for some social time. Announcements begin at 6:00; I'll take a few moments to talk about the 130th PA at Fredericksburg in December 1862. Dinner follows around 6:30, with our speaker beginning after our group photo about 7:15. After Dr. Bennett's presentation and Q&A, join us at our "Square Table" — an opportunity for extended Q&A with the speaker that is unique to our Round Table.



It all makes for a wonderful night out. Let's make it worth our speaker's trip from Georgia by turning out in large numbers. Please invite your friends to come out for a delicious meal, a stimulating lecture, and a chance to experience the rich traditions of one of the oldest and most celebrated Civil War Round Tables in the nation.

Mo Becker



John Heiser regaled us in January with his fascinating talk on the legend of the Army Mule.

## Upcoming Events

- **Saturdays & Sundays through March 14, 1:30 pm:** The Winter Lecture Series at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center continues (barring another government shutdown). Admission is free. For a complete listing of speakers and topics, go to: <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/gettysburg-winter-programs.htm> If you miss a talk, you can watch it after the fact at: <https://www.youtube.com/@gettysburgfoundation>.
- **Sunday, February 8, 2:00 to 4:00 pm:** Free Civil War dance class at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg to prepare for the Civil War Preservation Ball on March 21. To register, email [Preservation\\_Ball@civilwardance.org](mailto:Preservation_Ball@civilwardance.org). An additional rehearsal class will take place on March 8. Wear modern clothing. For more information, visit: [www.civilwardance.org](http://www.civilwardance.org).
- **Saturday, February 14, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm:** *Community Free Day* at the National Civil War Museum. ***The HCWRT will be recruiting!***
- **Thursday, February 19, 7:30 pm:** The Hershey CWRT hosts Jeff Kollath discussing *The Sultana Disaster*, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82234887393?pwd=a281bG5nTGcyVkw5WEVZTBOSmYxZz09#success> Passcode is 628861, via Zoom only.
- **Tuesday, February 24, 6:30 pm:** Best-selling author Alex Kershaw delivers the annual Omar N. Bradley Memorial Lecture on *Patton's Finest Hours* at the US Army Heritage & Education Center in Carlisle. Doors open at 6:00 pm.
- **Thursday, February 26, 7:00 pm:** The Gettysburg CWRT hosts Richard Condon discussing *Pittsburgh at Gettysburg* at the Adams County Historical Society (live and livestreamed).
- **Saturday, February 28, 10:00 am:** USAHEC in Carlisle hosts its annual Reenactor Recruitment Day and another fabulous Used Book Sale.

## Searching for a New Treasurer and Secretary

Any member who is interested in assuming the duties of Treasurer for the Harrisburg CWRT should contact our Past President, John West, who heads our Nominating Committee, at 412-217-1234 or [john@johnfwest.com](mailto:john@johnfwest.com). The continued financial health of our organization depends on filling this critical position. If you can balance a checkbook, you can do this job. Please volunteer!

As the Rev. Rebecca Myers has volunteered to stand for election this spring as our President for Campaigns 68 & 69, we're also looking for a volunteer to replace her in our Secretary position.

## Update on Our 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. Cost per person is only \$95.00.

As this newsletter went to press, the trip remains sold out and we have six people on the waiting list. Anyone interested in adding their name to the waiting list should contact our Field Trip Reservationist, Steve Williamson, at 717-580-0443 or by email at: [steve.williamson.WCCS@outlook.com](mailto:steve.williamson.WCCS@outlook.com). A lot can happen between now and May, and some who are currently registered for the trip will undoubtedly fall out in the months ahead for one reason or another. Three who were on our waiting list a month ago have already been offered seats on the bus. The only way to get on the waiting list is to contact Steve Williamson directly.

## Meeting Schedule—Campaign 67

**03/13/26**

*A Sight Never to be Forgotten: Union Chaplins at Gettysburg*  
Rev. Dr. Nancy Jill Hale

**04/10/26**

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

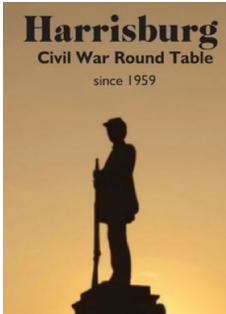
**05/15/26** – Nye-Sommers Lecture

*The Crossing of the James and the First Petersburg Offensive*

A. Wilson Greene

**06/05/26**—Annual Business Meeting

*Cornelia Hancock's Civil War*  
Carolyn Ivanoff



## *The Dispatch*

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

February 2026

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

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_