

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, April 10 — Steven Stotelmyer

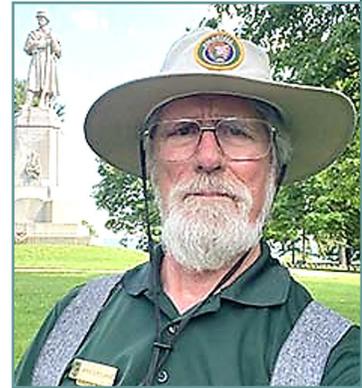
From Frederick to Sharpsburg: The Maryland Campaign Before Antietam

Join us on Friday, April 10 as historian Steven R. Stotelmyer discusses the Maryland campaign of 1862 that led up to the epic battle of Antietam, the bloodiest single day of combat in American history.

With 23,000 casualties it is understandable that Antietam tends to take the spotlight in the Maryland Campaign of 1862. However, General Robert E. Lee did not begin crossing the Potomac on September 4, 1862, just so he could fight at Sharpsburg 13 days later with his back to that same river. Mr. Stotelmyer's presentation, based on his book *From Frederick to Sharpsburg*, sheds light on some of the other participants and events long obscured in the shadow cast by Antietam, including Robert E. Lee, Barbara Fritchie, Daniel Wise, J.E.B. Stuart and Jesse Lee Reno.

In 1989, Mr. Stotelmyer was a founding member of the Central Maryland Heritage League, a non-profit land trust which helped preserve some of the South Mountain Battlefield. During his tenure with CMHL he discovered significant information regarding the Battle of South Mountain and the Legend of Wise's Well. This led to the publication of *The Bivouacs of the Dead: The Story of Those Who Died at Antietam and South Mountain*. Mr. Stotelmyer also authored *Too Useful to Sacrifice, Reconsidering George B. McClellan's Generalship in the Maryland Campaign from South Mountain to Antietam*. Currently, he is a National Park Service Volunteer as well as a NPS Certified Antietam and South Mountain Battlefield Tour Guide. His presentation will set the stage for our spring field trip to South Mountain on May 2.

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/87355636564>. No password in required. To dial in by phone, call 1-301-715-8592 or click the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/87355636564?invitation_id=beMNIIMgAy5a98zpSD3hs1sOXnSWiBOzZlImwOLi4oAt8. The meeting ID # is 873 5563 6564.



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

5:30 pm—Doors Open 7:15 pm—Presentation
6:00 pm—Call to Order 8:30 pm—Square Table
6:30 pm—Dinner

Buffet Dinner Selections

Asian Glazed Chicken, Mediterranean Cod, Jasmine Rice Pilaf, Honey Glazed Carrots, 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, March 29

Email: Michael Margolius at: membership@harrisburgcwr.org

Executive Officers

President, Mo Becker
mdbecker132@comcast.net

Vice President, Mark Blanchard
mblanchard@cvschools.org

Acting Treasurer, Mo Becker
mdbecker132@comcast.net

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NOTE

President's Pen

"Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history."

— President Abraham Lincoln, December 1, 1862



As we turn our attention to April, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for us to continue our exploration of Civil War history. We have three world-class historians lined up for the balance of Campaign 67. Please mark your calendars now for April 10, May 15, and June 5, and plan to join us.

If you missed any of our Antietam field trips, all the more reason to join us on April 10 for Antietam Licensed Battlefield Guide Steve Stotelmyer's presentation based on his book *From Frederick to Sharpsburg*. It will be excellent preparation for our spring field trip on May 2.

Since joining the Round Table in 2019, I've often heard the phrase "our Round Table." It's a good phrase, but it only has meaning if we each take responsibility for its future. As my term as President concludes in June, we need to ensure that our organization remains strong and well-supported. To that end, we are currently seeking members willing to serve as Treasurer and Secretary on the Board of Directors. These roles are essential to supporting our next President and continuing the mission of the Harrisburg CWRT. This is not someone else's task. It belongs to all of us. If we truly mean "our Round Table," now is the time to demonstrate it.

I am asking each member to actively speak with fellow members and help identify individuals who would provide honest and faithful service in one of these roles. A personal invitation is often the most effective way to encourage someone to step forward. If you would like more information:

- For Treasurer responsibilities, please speak with Norm Daniels, Steve Williamson, or me.
- For Secretary responsibilities, please speak with Rebecca Myers.

Our constitution is available on our website and outlines the duties of both positions. Please share the names of prospective candidates with John West, chair of our Nominating Committee, at John@johnfwest.com or 412-217-1234.

If you are interested in filling the Treasurer or the Secretary position, now is the time to let John West or me know of that interest, so we can prepare a ballot for the elective positions and hold elections prior to our June engagement.

I look forward to another excellent turn-out for our April engagement, which is coming up in just a few weeks. ***Be sure to RSVP to Michael Margolius by Sunday, March 29 to let him know you intend to join us that night.***

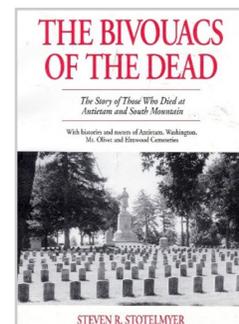
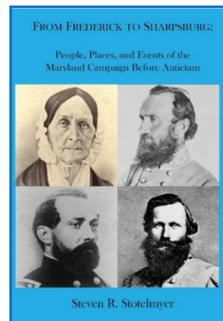
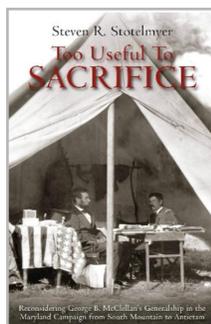
See you all on Friday, April 10.

Mo Becker



At our March engagement, the Rev. Dr. Nancy Jill Hale gave a spellbinding talk on the role chaplains played in the Union Army and at the battle of Gettysburg.

Speaker's Books



Upcoming Events

- **Thursday, March 19, 7:30 pm:** The Hershey CWRT hosts author and HCWRT member Joe Boslet who will speak on the subject of his new book, *Little Round Top at Gettysburg: A Reassessment of July 2, 1863*. You can also tune in by Zoom. Passcode is 628861. Here's the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82234887393?pwd=a281bG5nTGcyVkw5WEVZTTBOSmYxZz09#success>.
- **Saturday, March 21, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm:** The National Civil War Museum hosts a display and talk on the conservation of a dress belonging to Katherine Wilson Curtin, wife of Civil War-era PA Governor Andrew Curtin.
- **Saturday, March 21, 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm:** Civil War Preservation Ball in the PA Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg featuring the Victorian Dance Ensemble. \$70/couple; \$40/single. For more information, contact Preservation-Ball@civilwardance.org.
- **Thursday, March 26, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm:** Dickinson College hosts its annual J. Howard Wert Lecture at the Stern Center Great Room. Brown University history professor Dr. Michael Vorenberg will discuss his book, *Lincoln's Peace: The Struggle to End the Civil War*, which was a finalist for the 2026 Gilder-Lehrman Lincoln Prize.
- **Thursday, March 26, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm:** The Gettysburg CWRT hosts Stephen Evangelista, speaking on "*The Gettysburg Gun*" at the Adams Co. Historical Society (live and livestreamed).
- **Saturday, April 25, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm:** Volunteers from the HCWRT and sister organizations will clean the obelisk that marks the grave of Colonel Henry Zinn in the Mount Zion Cemetery in Churchtown. If you'd like to help, contact Don Madar at krivan12@yahoo.com. A new wayside marker on Colonel Zinn will be unveiled!

Update on Our Spring Field Trip

As this newsletter went to press, our May 2 field trip on the Battle of South Mountain remains sold out, but we have no one 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.

The only way to get on the waiting list is to contact Steve Williamson directly. With six weeks to go before the field trip, there is a good chance some who are currently registered will fall out, making room for some or all on the waiting list to move into vacant seats. **For those who are already registered, if you have not yet paid the \$70.00 balance due, the deadline for doing so is April 2.**

Lawrence E. Keener-Farley, 1948-2026

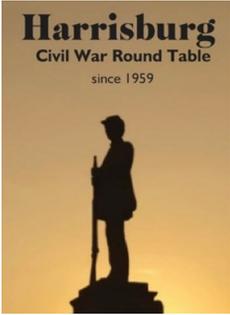


Long-time HCWRT member Lawrence E. Keener-Farley passed away on February 5 at age 77. At our March engagement, President Mo Becker delivered the following remarks: "Tonight, I'd like to take a few minutes to remember Larry, and all he meant to this Round Table and its sister organizations. An accomplished lawyer, Larry brought formidable organizational and people skills to everything he touched. The co-author of *Civil War Harrisburg: A Guide to Capital Area Sites, Incidents and Personalities*, he expanded our knowledge of the Civil War history that took place in our own backyard. An avid collector of Civil War flags, arms, and artifacts, he delighted in sharing his collections with others. Larry was the driving force behind the renowned Victorian Dance Ensemble, and was an ardent promoter of 19th century dance. The Ensemble performed at balls, dances, and commemorations all over the United States. Larry and his wife, Annette, added class and elegance to everything they touched. May Larry's memory be a blessing."

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 67

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

April 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



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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:** _____