

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, March 13 — Nancy Jill Hale

"A Sight Never To Be Forgotten": Union Chaplains at Gettysburg

Join us on Friday, March 13, as we commemorate Women's History Month with a presentation by the Rev. Dr. Nancy Jill Hale on the vital role chaplains played during the American Civil War.

Civil War chaplains served not only as captains on the regimental field staff, but also as pastors, confidants, spiritual guides, and paternal figures for the soldiers. Many of them willingly shared the hardships of army life and undertook various tasks that would help the men. Some chaplains risked their lives and freedom for the sake of their sense of duty to God and to their regiments. In their accounts, they share the perspective of men whose main concern was the spiritual and moral well-being of the soldiers, and their stories, some of which have not yet been shared in print, shed a different and sometimes very poignant light on the lives, faith, and sense of duty of men in the army, before, during, and after a battle. This presentation will introduce Civil War chaplaincy and will include a few stories of chaplains at Gettysburg.



The Rev. Dr. Nancy Jill Hale is a United Methodist pastor and serves a church in Fayetteville, PA. She is also a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park. Her research has focused on the lives and stories of Union chaplains, and she portrays the only woman to serve as a chaplain during the Civil War, Ella Gibson Hobart. Two of her articles on chaplains have been published in *Gettysburg Magazine*, and her novel *Faith and Duty* describes the challenges of a fictional chaplain as he learns how to be faithful both to God and to the men in his community as they enlist to serve in the Federal army. Her latest book is *A Sight Never to Be Forgotten: Eyewitness Accounts from Union Chaplains at Gettysburg* (Gettysburg Publishing).

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/87148794302>. No password is required. To dial in by phone, call 1-301-715-8592 or click on the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/87148794302?signature=Fxx4P19ceA-jnWjfq6-knzPVTaMjtmADSJdtdGJ7hvQ>. The meeting ID # is 871 4879 4302.

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

Herb-marinated Flank Steak, Citrus Salmon, Olive Oil Roasted Potatoes, Sugar Peas w/Julienne Carrots, Mixed Field Greens, House Made Soup du Jour, Assorted Cookies

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 1

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

Secretary, Rebecca Myers
revmyers2013@gmail.com

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NOTE

President's Pen

*"Now is the time for all good women and men to come to the aid of our Round Table."
— with my respects to Thomas Paine*



After a long and bitter winter, it's almost time to "Spring" our clocks forward!

I'm delighted to report that our February engagement was a resounding success! We had an impressive turnout to commemorate Black History Month. The highlight was our brilliant speaker, Dr. Bennett Parten, who delivered a captivating presentation on the scores of slaves who self-emancipated by following in the wake of the Union troops during Sherman's epic March to the Sea. Dr. Parten's approach was distinctly personal, engaging, and enlightening, leaving our attendees thoroughly inspired.

My two-year tenure as President of the Harrisburg CWRT will come to an end in June. The Reverend Rebecca Myers has graciously volunteered to stand for election this spring as our next President. As our Secretary, Rebecca has helped guide us through the past two years in our organization's long and storied history. While I have absolute confidence in her ability to lead us, she cannot do it alone. She will need the help of members who are willing to offer their time and talent and take their turn in filling vacancies on our Board of Directors, including:

- **Treasurer:** I have been Acting Treasurer since November. The Treasurer works closely with our very capable Bookkeeper and Membership Chair, greets our members when they arrive at our dinner meetings, and collects their cash and checks. The ability to pay our bills, balance a checkbook, and deposit cash and checks at a Members 1st branch is necessary! Our Bookkeeper, Michelle Coover, prepares financial reconciliation reports, helps the Treasurer prepare our annual budget, and serves as an independent check on our finances.
- **Secretary:** Rebecca has done a superb job recording minutes at our Board Meetings. She has worked with our Membership Chair to brainstorm ideas on how to recruit and retain our most precious asset — our members. We're looking for someone with a similar skill set.

If you are interested in filling either of these positions, now is the time to speak up and let John West, who chairs our Nominating Committee, know of your interest, so we can prepare a ballot for the elective positions and hold elections prior to our June engagement. John can be reached at 412-217-1234 or john@johnfwest.com. Feel free to contact me at mdbecker132@comcast.net for more information. Please do your part to ensure the continued success of our Round Table!

Also, I am looking for someone to provide a ride to our dinner meetings to another member who lives in the Camp Hill area. When you RSVP for dinner, please let our Membership Chair know if you are willing to drive a fellow member to our dinner meetings. Thank you.

I look forward to another excellent turn-out for our March engagement, which is coming up in just three weeks. ***Be sure to RSVP to Michael Margolius by Sunday, March 1 to let him know you intend to join us that night.*** See you all on Friday, March 13. Don't let the Ides of March scare you away!

Mo Becker

Donations to the Harrisburg CWRT have been made in memory of:
Frederick Revere Ployer ♡ **Mary Jane Webb Ployer Cooper** ♡ **Everett W. Cooper**
HCWRT Founding Members



Dr. Bennett Parten gave a fascinating talk in February on Sherman's March to the Sea.

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: <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>.
- **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.
- **Sunday, March 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 PreservationBall@civilwardance.org. Wear modern clothing. For more information, visit: www.civilwardance.org
- **Saturday, March 14, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm:** CEO Wayne E. Motts will speak on *Brigadier General George Sears Greene* at the National Civil War Museum. Greene's tunic will be on display during the lecture!
- **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 tune in by Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82234887393?pwd=a281bG5nTGcyVkw5WEVZTTBOSmYxZz09#success> Passcode is 628861
- **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.
- **Monday, May 25, 10:00 am:** Memorial Day Ceremony at Mount Zion Cemetery in Churchtown. Terrence W. Beltz, author of a new regimental history of the 130th PA Infantry, will be the speaker. For more information on Memorial Day weekend activities, contact HCWRT member Suzanne Sunday at lsunday@comcast.net.

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 and we have four 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. The only way to get on the waiting list is to contact Steve Williamson directly.

Past March 13 Civil War Events

- 1861: War fever. Alabama adopts Confederate constitution. ♦ Nathaniel Lyon, commander of St. Louis arsenal, nervous about Missouri secessionist movement, began organizing means to protect the arsenal.
- 1862: Congress passes Article of War prohibiting the army from returning slaves to their masters. ♦ Battle of New Bern.
- 1863: Skirmishes in NC, TN, MS river. ♦ Accidental explosion at Richmond ammunition factory with civilian casualties.
- 1864: Grant barely into appointment as Lieutenant General and planning Overland Campaign. ♦ One day into Red River campaign. ♦ MO enforces loyalty oaths of pastors causing strife between pro-Union and pro-Confederate factions.
- 1865: War fatigue. Jefferson Davis authorizes use of slaves as soldiers. ♦ Sherman closing in on his march to the sea.

Member Book Release

Joe Boslet's eagerly-awaited book, *Little Round Top at Gettysburg: A Reassessment of July 2, 1863*, is an in-depth study of the fighting on Little Round Top, complete with maps, photos and detailed notes. He will speak at the Hershey CWRT on March 19 (see Upcoming Events above).

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 67

04/10/26

From Frederick to Sharpsburg: The Maryland Campaign before Antietam

Steven Stotelmyer

05/15/26 — Nye-Sommers Lecture

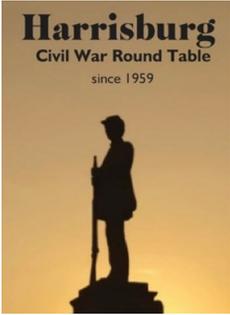
The Crossing of the James and the First Petersburg Offensive

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

March 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:** _____