

## 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, May 15 — A. Wilson Greene*

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

Join us on Friday, May 15, for our annual Nye-Sommers Lecture, delivered by celebrated author and historian A. Wilson Greene, who is coming all the way from Tennessee to honor the memory of Colonel Wilbur S. Nye and Dr. Richard J. Sommers.

Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant managed one of the Civil War's most spectacular logistical operations in June 1864 when he moved from the Cold Harbor battlefield to and across the mighty James River under the nose of General Robert E. Lee. Grant and his generals, however, squandered the advantage they gained through a number of errors that prevented his forces from capturing Petersburg on June 15, 1864, mistakes that led to three more days of brutal combat and Confederate control of Petersburg for nine more months.



Mr. Greene completed a 44-year career in public history and battlefield preservation in 2017. He is the author of six books and more than twenty articles and essays on the American Civil War. He is currently at work on the third of three volumes on the Petersburg Campaign entitled *A Campaign of Giants*, published by the University of North Carolina Press. The second volume, published in 2025, is dedicated to Dr. Sommers. Mr. Greene holds degrees in American history from Florida State University and Louisiana State University and resides in Walden, Tennessee.

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/84009313379>. 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/84009313379?signature=hT2N5zitkwR52Dj-VOSi7FoWbI8uzicrV676yAwylf0>. The meeting ID # is 840 0931 3379.

*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*

Citrus Brined Pork Loin, Lemon Cod Fish Filet,  
Smashed Yukon Gold Potatoes, Broccoli, 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](https://harrisburgcwr.org/events)

**Dinner reservations must be made no later than  
noon on Sunday, May 3**

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

### Executive Officers

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[harrisburgcwr.org](https://harrisburgcwr.org)

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NOTE

## President's Pen

*"We must destroy this army of Grant's before he gets to the James River. If he gets there, it will become a siege, and then it will be a mere question of time."  
— General Robert E. Lee*

**Please join us for our biggest event of Campaign 67!**



Our annual Nye-Sommers lecture takes on even greater significance this year when historian A. Wilson Greene, who was a very close friend of the late Dr. Richard J. Sommers, honors Dick's memory with a stirring account of how General Ulysses S. Grant crossed the James River after the costly and debilitating Overland Campaign and launched the first siege of Petersburg. For the Army of Northern Virginia, this was the beginning of the end, which General Lee had so ominously predicted. No one can tell this epic story better than Will Greene, who is writing a trilogy on the Petersburg Campaign, and who has devoted his life to preserving and interpreting the Petersburg battlefield. *This is one engagement you simply cannot afford to miss!*

**Still Looking for a Few Good Volunteers for HCWRT Positions!**

The Harrisburg CWRT has thus far survived and thrived based largely on the willingness of a group of dedicated volunteers who stepped up to fill key leadership positions. Our continued success as a Round Table depends on whether more volunteers are willing to step up this spring to fill openings on our Board.

If you are interested in filling any of the positions listed below, please speak up and 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.

Here are the openings we need to fill this spring:

**Treasurer:** Whoever volunteers for this elective position will carry on the good work of Norm Daniels, Steve Williamson, and Robbie Kribell. The Treasurer works with our bookkeeper to steward the monies provided by our members.

**Secretary:** Rebecca Myers has worked hard over the last two years in this elective position to maintain a record of board activities. The Secretary is a member of the leadership team and provides advice to help the Board make important decisions that will affect the future of our Round Table. A desire to serve and make a difference is necessary.

Anyone interested in serving in either of these critical positions should contact John West at 412-217-1234 or john@johnfwest.com or me at 717-507-0679 or mdbecker132@comcast.net for more information.

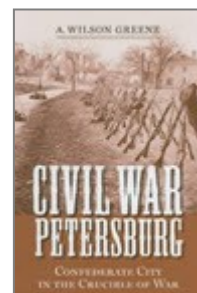
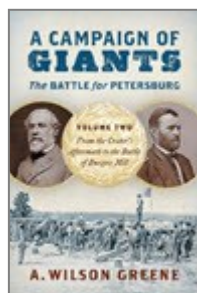
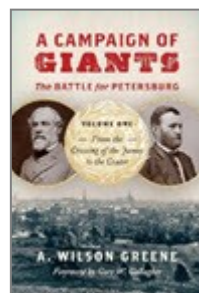
*Please do your part to ensure the continued success of our Round Table!*

I look forward to another excellent turn-out for our May engagement, which is coming up in just a few weeks. **Be sure to RSVP to Michael Margolius by Sunday, May 3 to let him know you intend to join us that night.** See you all on Friday, May 15.



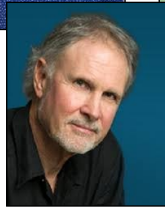
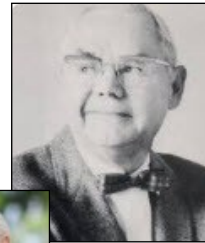
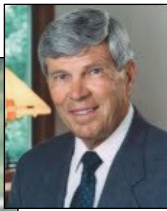
**At our April engagement, author and Antietam guide Steven Stotelmyer whetted our appetite and laid the groundwork for our spring field trip to study the Battles of South Mountain.**

## Selected Speaker's Books



## *A Short History of the Nye-Sommers Lecture*

Our Round Table's Nye-Sommers lecture honors two pillars of our organization: Colonel Wilbur S. Nye (1898-1970) and Dr. Richard J. Sommers (1942-2019). The annual Nye lecture was established in 1977; Dr. Sommers' name was added to it in 2014. The list of prominent authors who have delivered this lecture over the years reads like a Who's Who of Civil War historians; it includes William C. Davis, Kent Masterson Brown, Alan Guelzo, James M. McPherson, Gordon C. Rhea, Caroline E. Janney, D. Scott Hartwig, and Harold Holzer. We will add the name of A. Wilson Greene to that distinguished list on Friday, May 15.



## *Update On Our Spring Field Trip*

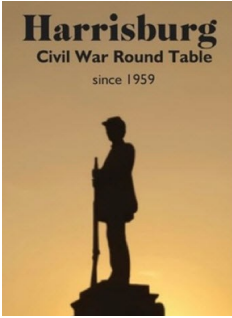
As this newsletter went to press, our May 2 field trip on the Battle of South Mountain has two vacant seats, and the waiting list is empty. Anyone interested in filling that last seat please contact our Field Trip Reservationist, Steve Williamson, at 717-580-0443 or by email at: [steve.williamson.WCCS@outlook.com](mailto:steve.williamson.WCCS@outlook.com).

## *Upcoming Events*

- **Thursday, April 23, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm:** The Gettysburg CWRT hosts Ron Kirkwood, author of *Too Much for Human Endurance*, speaking on "The Spangler Farm, Part 2" 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](mailto:krivan12@yahoo.com). A new wayside marker on Colonel Zinn will be unveiled!
- **Wednesday, April 29, 7:00 pm:** The York College Symphony performs Aaron Copland's "A Lincoln Portrait" as part of a free concert at York College's Waldner Performing Arts Center, 441 Country Club Rd., in York.
- **Saturday, May 16, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm:** The National Civil War Museum hosts historian A. Wilson Greene, who will speak on "The Battle of the Crater." Admission is free.
- **Thursday, May 21, 7:30 pm:** The Hershey CWRT hosts HCWRT president Mo Becker who will speak on the subject of his new book, *Decisions on Western Waters: The 27 Critical Decisions That Defined the Operations*. You can also tune in by Zoom. Passcode is 628861. Here's the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82234887393?pwd=a281bG5nTGcyVkw5WEVZTTBOSmYxZz09#success>.
- **Saturday, May 23, 10:30 am:** Terrence W. Beltz, author of a new regimental history of the 130th PA Infantry, will speak on "Colonel Henry I. Zinn, Cumberland County's Civil War Hero" at the Cumberland Co. Historical Society, 21 N. Pitt Street in Carlisle.
- **Sunday, May 24, 2:00 pm:** Walking tour of Civil War era Churchtown. Begins at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, 325 Old Stonehouse Rd. in Churchtown.
- **Monday, May 25, 10:00 am:** Memorial Day Ceremony at Mount Zion Cemetery in Churchtown. Terrence W. Beltz will be the speaker. For more information on Memorial Day weekend activities, contact HCWRT member Suzanne Sunday at [slsunday@comcast.net](mailto:slsunday@comcast.net).

## *Meeting Schedule—Campaign 67*

06/05/26—Annual Business Meeting  
*A Heart Touched by Fire—Cornelia Hancock's Civil War*  
Carolyn Ivanoff



*The Dispatch*

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

May 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Individual or Family Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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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:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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