

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, June 5 — Carolyn Ivanoff

A Heart Touched By Fire—Cornelia Hancock's Civil War

Join us on Friday, June 5 for our annual membership meeting at which Harrisburg CWRT member Carolyn Ivanoff will recount the Civil War service of Quaker nurse Cornelia Hancock, whose courage and devotion made her a revered figure among the soldiers of the Second Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

From her initial journey to Gettysburg to her tireless service in Union hospitals and field camps, you will meet the people she knew and wrote about, and the places and incidents she participated in during the Civil War. Cornelia Hancock nursed the men of the Second Corps fearlessly from Gettysburg to the Grand Review, playing a consequential role on the national stage. After the war she did not return to the settled peaceful life of her small hometown; instead, she devoted a lifetime to the service of others. With her letters she wrote not only her story but that of a nation in the throes of a savage Civil War.



Ms. Ivanoff is a retired high school administrator, author, and independent historian. She writes and speaks frequently on American history in a variety of formats and venues. She last spoke to our Round Table in June of 2025 on her first book, *We Fought at Gettysburg*, which followed the 17th Connecticut through the Gettysburg campaign and beyond. She is back by popular demand.



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/82623259407>. 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/82623259407?signature=N09BJiBOduJE1VUJanam3NfAVOPqeBlyWzIneXkbUBc>. The meeting ID # is 826 2325 9407.

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

Orange Beef Satay, Parmesan Crusted Cod, Olive Oil Roasted Potatoes, Green Bean, Yellow Bean & Carrot Medley, Fruit & 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, May 24

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

Web Links (CTRL + click)

harrisburgcwr.org

Register For:

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NOTE

President's Pen

*"If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher.
As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide."
—Abraham Lincoln*



As Memorial Day approaches, we have much to look forward to and to be thankful for.

Our annual Nye-Sommers Lecture was a resounding success with more than 70 members and guests in attendance. A. Wilson Greene paid a fitting tribute to his dear friend, Dr. Richard J. Sommers, with a captivating presentation on the Petersburg Campaign. It was truly a night to remember.

As our 67th campaign year draws to a close, I am struck by how much we've accomplished over these past few years. We should all remain grateful for the leadership of Steve Smith and John West and the team they led that refused to allow our Round Table to become another casualty of the coronavirus. Since that crisis, we have rebuilt our membership and had a phenomenal 65th anniversary celebration, one remarkable speaker after another, and numerous memorable field trips. These events have reminded us of what our Round Table's original purpose was and what its future promise can be.

We expect to transition to our new website at www.harrisburgcwr.org by the end of the summer. It will simplify certain tasks and help us reach a much wider audience.

Looking ahead, our next engagement (which will also include our annual business meeting) will take place on Friday, June 5 at Central Penn College. ***Please plan to attend and bring a guest, and RSVP to Michael Margolius at membership@harrisburgcwr.org by noon on Sunday, May 24.***

Our campaign year will conclude with our second board meeting of the year on Saturday, June 13 at 10:00 am at the Cumberland Valley School District Conference Room.

My term as President ends on June 5. Please know that I am deeply appreciative of the support and dedication each of you has shown over the last two years. My heartfelt thanks to the Board of Directors and the officers of our leadership team, whose tireless efforts have been critical to our success. I want to express my gratitude to: Mark Blanchard, our vice-president, for his steadfast support and insightful advice. Steve Williamson, our assistant treasurer, for his meticulous handling of our field trip finances. Rev. Rebecca Myers, our secretary, for her uncanny ability to generate accurate minutes in record time, and her moving invocations at our engagements. Michael Margolius, our membership chair, for his successful efforts in maintaining and growing our membership. Tracy Sommers, our newsletter editor, for her excellent work in keeping everyone informed. Norm Daniels, our preservation chair, for his invaluable contributions over the years. Steve Smith, our programs and field trip chair, for recruiting excellent speakers and organizing enjoyable and enlightening engagements and field trips. Dana Ledger and Alex Dissinger, for working behind the scenes as our Zoom co-hosts and webmasters, and Todd Little for his social media work. Don Madar, David Atkinson, and Rick Eiserman, for their community outreach, boundless enthusiasm, and institutional knowledge.

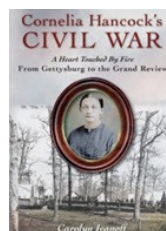
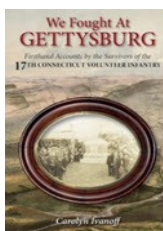
I look forward to continuing my membership and supporting the Round Table and our new Board President as we make plans to keep the flame our founding fathers lit 67 years ago this spring burning bright.

Mo Becker



At our May engagement, historian A. Wilson Greene honored the memory of COL Wilbur S.Nye and Dr. Richard J. Sommers with an inspiring talk on the Petersburg Campaign.

Speaker's Books



Coming Soon

Our Spring Field Trip to South Mountain

Our sold-out field trip on the Battle of South Mountain on May 2 was a tremendous success. Guide Dennis Frye did a spectacular job, lunch at the Bavarian Inn was delicious, and the weather was perfect. We emerged with a much better understanding of Lee's first defeat. A good time was had by all!



Upcoming Events

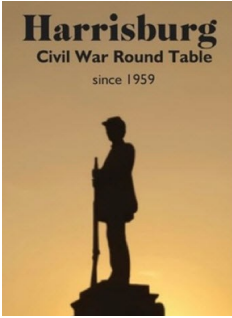
- **Saturday, May 16, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm:** The National Civil War Museum hosts historian A. Wilson Greene, who will speak on *The Battle of the Crater*. Admission is free.
- **Thursday, May 21, 7:30 pm:** The Hershey CWRT hosts HCWRT president Mo Becker who will speak on the subject of his new book, *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.
- **Saturday, May 23, 11:00 am:** Memorial Day Program at Filey's Cemetery in Dillsburg, sponsored by the PA Reserve Volunteer Corps, with multiple dignitaries, honoring Andersonville survivor Pvt. Jackson Martin of Siddonsburg, whose new marker will be unveiled. For more info, go to: <https://www.prvchs.org/gravesite-dedication-for-private-jackson-martin-memorial-day-observation/>.
- **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 is the speaker. For additional information on Memorial Day weekend activities, contact HCWRT member Suzanne Sunday at slsunday@comcast.net.
- **Thursday, May 28, 7:30 pm:** The Gettysburg CWRT hosts Codie Eash who will speak on the topic *Did Robert E. Lee Use the Seminary Cupola?* at the Adams Co. Historical Society (live and livestreamed)
- **Saturday, June 6, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm:** The National Civil War Museum hosts historian Dr. Jared Peatman on his new book, *A Hell of a Regiment: To Gettysburg & Beyond with the Twentieth Maine*. Admission to the lecture is free.
- **Sunday, June 14 thru Tuesday, June 17:** Yale Public History Institute symposium on *Our Composite Nation* honoring public history in 2026 at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, WV. Moderators include David Blight and Kate Mansur. Free and open to the public; registration required. For more information, go to: <https://macmillan.yale.edu/glc/events/2026-06-14/yale-public-history-institute-our-composite-nation-honoring-public-history>.

Wayside Honoring Colonel Zinn Unveiled



At a ceremony on April 25 at Mount Zion Cemetery in Churchtown, a new wayside was unveiled honoring the memory of the slain commander of the 130th PA Volunteer Infantry, Colonel Henry I. Zinn.

The event was organized by HCWRT member Suzanne Sunday, pictured here with representatives of the HCWRT, the Camp Curtin CWRT & Historical Society, and Monroe Township.



The Dispatch

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

June 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 _____
 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: _____*