The Dispatch

Newsletter of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

Welcome to our fellowship forum where we discuss our past, emphasizing remembrance, education & preservation.
Meetings are held at Central Penn College Conference Center and virtually on Zoom

Friday, November 13 – Christopher Gwinn

Twilight of the Blue & Gray, The 1938 Reunion at Gettysburg



Join us for our annual salute to veterans on Friday, November 13, as Ranger Christopher Gwinn recounts how, 85 summers after musket fire echoed over Gettysburg, the final living veterans of the Civil War returned—not as foes, but as old men. In July 1938, over 1,800 Union and Confederate veterans gathered in Gettysburg one last time, their memories bridging the gap of war and time. We will explore the stories, symbolism, and legacy of this extraordinary reunion—where memory, reconciliation, and the twilight of a generation converged. This lecture electrified a capacity audience during Gettysburg's 163rd anniversary commemoration of the battle this summer. What better way to celebrate Veterans Day than to remember how these former enemies found common ground on the eve of WWII?

Ranger Gwinn is a 2006 graduate of Gettysburg College and holds a Master's Degree in Public History. He has worked as an Interpretive Park Ranger at Antietam National Battlefield, Boston National Historical Park, and the National Mall and Memorial Parks, where he created some of the first public programming conducted at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. Currently the Chief of Interpretation and Education at Gettysburg National Military Park, he manages and oversees all aspects of the visitor experience. He has written numerous articles and journal entries on the Battle of Gettysburg and the Civil War era. He last addressed our Round Table in September 2024 on "Little Round Top: The Vision Place of Souls," and 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/83089029876. 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/83089029876/invitations?signature=u2kgiKxu6VjWuTIui-YHXX04RXyfkIQ-ohIQW61OyRk. The meeting ID # is 830 8902 9876.

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

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

Buffet Dinner Selections

Tuscan Pork Tenderloin Mediterranean Cod, Smashed Yukon Gold Potatoes, Green/Yellow Bean and Carrot Medley, Mixed Field Greens, Soup du Jour, Assorted Cookies
Cost: $35 per person
pay at the door or on our website: harrisburgcwrt.org/events

Dinner reservations must be made no later than noon on Sunday, November 1

Email: Michael Margolius at:
membership@harrisburgcwrt.org

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rev.myers2013@gmail.com

Vice President, Mark Blanchard
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Steve.Williamson.WCCS@outlook.com

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Web Links (CTRL + click)

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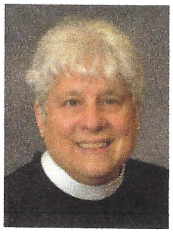


"Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!."
-- The Navy Hymn

November always brings Veterans Day, and this month's Harrisburg Civil War Round Table meeting gives us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on military service, memory, and reconciliation.

Military service has been part of my family story for generations. I have relatives who served as far back as the Revolutionary War. My maternal grandfather served in the Italian Navy and Merchant Marine before coming to the United States. My youngest brother was named for our great-uncle, Lieutenant Commander John Edward Myers of New Oxford, Pennsylvania, who was killed when the USS *Mount Hood*, a munitions ship, exploded at Manus Island during World War II.

My father served in the Army and later in the Reserves, and I was born at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, as he was completing his regular Army service. My first husband served in the Navy submarine service, and for a time we lived near Groton, Connecticut. So perhaps it is not surprising that I have a particular connection to the Navy. I still get choked up whenever I hear the Navy Hymn.

While we can—and should—look critically at wars and the decisions that lead to them, it is important to remember the people who serve. Those who put on a military uniform ultimately accept that they may be called upon to give their lives for their country.

That makes our November 13 meeting especially meaningful. Ranger Christopher Gwinn will tell the remarkable story of the 1938 Gettysburg reunion, when more than 1,800 surviving Union and Confederate veterans gathered at Gettysburg for the 75th anniversary of the battle. These men had once been enemies. By 1938, they were old men whose shared memories of the war helped bridge the divisions of their past. What better way to mark Veterans Day than to hear about this extraordinary moment of memory, reconciliation, and finding common ground?

I hope you'll join us on November 13—and please remember that ***the Round Table is covering dinner for all veterans who attend*** as part of our Veterans Day tribute.

Veterans are invited to wear their medals.

Rebecca



Dickinson College's Dr. Matthew Pinsker gave a stimulating talk on his acclaimed new book, *Boss Lincoln, The Partisan Life of Abraham Lincoln*, at our October engagement.

Meeting Schedule Campaign 68

12/4/26
Lincoln's Tragic Admiral: Samuel Francis DuPont
Kevin Weddle

01/22/27
The Final Days of George Gordon Meade
John Hoptak

02/19/27
The Not-So-Secret Underground Railroad
Cooper Wingert

03/12/27
TBA

04/16/27 - Nye-Sommers Lecture
The Vicksburg Campaign
Curt Fields presenting as General U.S. Grant

05/7/27 - Memorial Day Event
The Origins & Creation of Arlington National Cemetery
Allison Finkelstein

06/4/27 – Annual Business Meeting
Clara Barton: The Life & Legacy of a Civil War Icon
Carolyn Ivanoff presenting as Clara Barton

Seats Still Available for Fall Field Trip to Manassas, Virginia

Our fall field trip, entitled "War is No Picnic: The First Battle of Bull Run" will take place this Saturday, October 24, 2026, with Brad Gottfried as our guide. Cost per person is $95.00. ***As this newsletter went to press, there were still three open seats on the bus.*** Anyone interested in reserving one of those seats should contact our Field Trip Reservationist, Steve Williamson, at 717-580-0443. The only way to reserve a seat is to contact Steve Williamson directly and have him take your payment information over the phone. If the trip sells out, Steve will begin compiling a waiting list. In years past, we've almost always been able to accommodate those on the waiting list.

Upcoming Events

- **Thursday, October 22, 7:00 pm:** Gettysburg CWRT hosts Keith Kelback, who will speak on the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, DC. The meeting will take place at the Adams Co. Historical Society.
- **Saturday, October 24, all day:** HCWRT fall field trip to Manassas. See related article above.
- **Friday, October 30, 2:00 to 4:00 pm:** Dickinson College's House Divided Project hosts an open house in the Brian Pohanka Reading Room, 61 N. West Street in Carlisle.
- **Tuesday, November 3, 7:00 pm:** Gettysburg CWRT hosts HCWRT member Dr. Christian B. Keller, who will speak on his book, *The Great Partnership: Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and the Fate of the Confederacy*. The meeting will take place at the Adams Co. Historical Society.
- **Saturday, November 7, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm:** The National Civil War Museum hosts a Community Free Day in Honor of Veterans. The HCWRT will be recruiting. ***If you would like to help recruit, contact Michael Margolius at:*** membership@harrisburgcwrt.org.
- **Wednesday, November 11, 11:00 am:** Second annual National Reading of Names of United States Colored Troops at the National Civil War Museum.
- **Friday, November 13, 5:30 pm:** HCWRT annual Veterans Day engagement. See cover story for details.
- **Saturday, November 14, 11:00 am.** The National Civil War Museum will host Edward J. Hagerty, who will speak on his book, *Soldier of the South: Fighting Dick Anderson.*
- **Thursday, November 19, 7:30 pm:** Hershey CWRT hosts Madeleine Feierstein, who will speak on the Civil War prisons of Alexandria, VA. Meeting takes place in the VVA hall, 8000 Derry Street, Harrisburg.
- **Saturday, December 5, 1100 am:** The National Civil War Museum will host their CEO, HCWRT member Wayne E, Motts, who will speak on Foreign Fighters at Gettysburg.
- **Saturday, December 5, 6:00 pm:** The annual Memorial Illumination will take place at Antietam. **Memorial Illumination.**

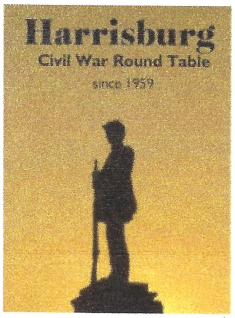
Still Searching for a New Treasurer

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. Whoever steps into this role will inherit a well-oiled machine, and can turn to other members who have served in the Treasurer position for advice and assistance, and will have the assistance of our bookkeeper. 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!



HCWRT members Don Madar and Steve Smith cleaning a Civil War soldier's headstone at the Mt. Zion Cemetery in Churchtown last weekend.



130th PA Monument
Antietam National
Battlefield

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

November 2026

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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@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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