

The Dispatch

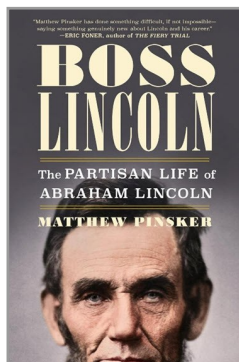
Newsletter of The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

Welcome to our fellowship forum where we discuss our past, emphasizing remembrance, education & preservation.

Meetings held at Central Penn College Conference Center and virtually on Zoom

Friday, October 9—Dr. Matthew Pinsker *Boss Lincoln: The Partisan Life of Abraham Lincoln*

Join us on Friday, October 9, as noted historian Dr. Matthew Pinsker shares insights about Abraham Lincoln and the politics of the Civil War from his new book, *Boss Lincoln: The Partisan Life of Abraham Lincoln*. This biography of Lincoln as a party leader offers an eye-opening portrait of the great president behind the scenes. With an array of newly-discovered or previously-overlooked private documents, Dr. Pinsker helps readers understand the career-long party politician whose brilliant coalition-building during the Civil War set the foundation for emancipation and Union victory. The *Wall Street Journal* has labeled *Boss Lincoln* a "landmark book." *New York Times* columnist Jamelle Bouie has called it "extraordinarily relevant to our political moment."



Dr. Pinsker holds the Brian Pohanka Chair of Civil War History at Dickinson College in Carlisle and serves as Director of the [House Divided Project](#), a popular educational initiative on nineteenth century U.S. history. He has held visiting fellowships at New America Foundation, the U.S. Army War College, and the National Constitution Center. He graduated from Harvard College and received his doctorate from the University of Oxford. He is the author of three books and produces a popular Substack series called: [What Would Lincoln Do?](#) He appears regularly on TV channels such as C-SPAN, PBS, and A&E's History. His online series for the History Channel, called "Sound Smart," has become a mainstay in social studies classrooms

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/86940390636>. 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/86940390636?signature=_ZIBABkromr8zOjo7yMtUBsVe4d9auA5Am9WEe1fo1U. The meeting ID # is 869 4039 0636.

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
6:15 pm—Dinner

Buffet Dinner Selections

Chicken Caprese, Parmesan Crusted Cod, Olive Oil
Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans,
Fruit and Nut Salad, Soup du Jour, Brownies

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, September 27**

Email: Michael Margolius at:
membership@harrisburgcwrt.org

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President, Rebecca Myers
rev.myers2013@gmail.com

Vice President, Mark Blanchard
mblanchard@cvschools.org

Treasurer, Vacant

Asst. Treasurer, Steve Williamson
Steve.Williamson.WCCS@outlook.com

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President's Pen

*"Matthew Pinsker has done something difficult, if not impossible—
saying something genuinely new about Lincoln and his career."*

—Eric Foner



I have to confess something: I'm not much of a Civil War expert.

When I was a child, my family visited so many Civil War battlefields that, at one point, I never wanted my picture taken sitting on top of another cannon! Battles and military strategy have never been my primary interest. What has always intrigued me is the human side of history—how people respond to injustice, conflict, evil, and extraordinary challenges.

That is one reason I've always been fascinated by Abraham Lincoln. What an extraordinary and difficult time to be president: a divided country, a devastating war, and the challenge of holding together a fragile political coalition.

Our October speaker, Dr. Matthew Pinsker, will help us see Lincoln in a different way. His latest book, *Boss Lincoln: The Partisan Life of Abraham Lincoln*, explores Lincoln not simply as the marble figure we remember today, but as a working politician—an organizer, coalition builder, and master of the political machinery of his time.

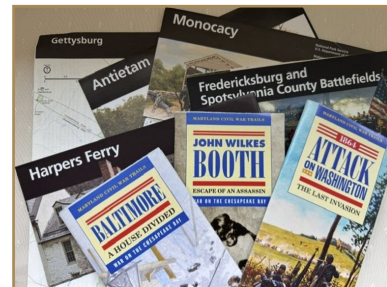
I'm especially looking forward to this conversation. Lincoln faced an awful mess and somehow had to lead a deeply divided nation through it. Then, just days after the war ended, he was assassinated. I often wonder what our country might have become if Abraham Lincoln had lived.

Please join us Friday, October 9, for what promises to be a memorable evening with Dr. Pinsker. I hope you'll come—not only to learn more about Lincoln and the Civil War, but to think with us about leadership, division, justice, and what we can learn from those who faced extraordinary moments in our history.

Rebecca

P.S. I also want to mention an idea from one of our new members, Bob Zick, who would like to help families and other members who visit Civil War sites. If you visit a battlefield or other Civil War site, Bob asks that you bring back **up to five brochures** describing and interpreting the site. We will put those brochures on a table at our meetings so other members can take them home and use them to plan their own visits.

Bob, thank you for helping us share history beyond our engagements.



The HCWRT kicked off its 68th campaign year on September 11 with a stimulating presentation by Dr. Bradley M. Gottfried on the complicated relationship between Grant and Meade.

Meeting Schedule—Campaign 68

11/13/26

Twilight of the Blue & Gray: 1938 Reunion
Christopher Gwinn

12/4/26

TBA

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

05/7/25

TBA

06/4/27

Clara Barton: The Life & Legacy of a Civil War Icon

Carolyn Ivanoff presenting as Clara Barton

Fall Field Trip to Manassas, Virginia



**Don't Delay,
Sign Up Today!**

Our fall field trip, entitled *War is No Picnic: The First Battle of Bull Run* will take place on Saturday, October 24. Dr. Bradley M. Gottfried will be our guide.

Cost per person is \$95.00. Anyone interested in reserving a seat on the bus should contact our Field Trip Reservationist, Steve Williamson by email at: steve.williamson.WCCS@outlook.com, or at 717-580-0443. The only way to reserve a seat is to contact Steve Williamson directly and pay a \$25.00 deposit.

Payment in full is due by September 24. As this newsletter went to press, there were only four seats left on the bus, so if you'd like to join us contact Steve Williamson immediately. 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.

**DON'T MISS THE CHANCE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
FIRST MAJOR LAND BATTLE OF THE CIVIL WAR!**

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, September 19, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm & Sunday, September 20, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm:** 2026 WWII Weekend at the Eisenhower National Historic Site in Gettysburg. Reenactors, WWII veterans & vehicles, speakers, dancing girls! Fun for the whole family.
- **Thursday, September 24, 7:00 pm:** Gettysburg CWRT hosts Dr. Clifton Potter, who will speak on POWs in Lynchburg, Virginia. Meeting will take place at the Adams Co. Historical Society.
- **Friday, October 9, 5:30 pm:** Harrisburg CWRT will host Dr. Matthew Pinsker, who will speak on his new book, *Boss Lincoln: The Partisan Life of Abraham Lincoln*. See page 1 for details.
- **Thursday, October 15, 7:30 pm:** Hershey CWRT hosts Carlton Young, who will speak on *The Vermont Brigade*. Meeting takes place in the VVA hall, 8000 Derry Street, Harrisburg.
- **Saturday, October 17, 11:00 am:** The National Civil War Museum hosts author Kevin Levin who will speak on his new book, *A Glorious Fate: The Life & Legacy of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw*.
- **Saturday, October 17, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm & Sunday, October 18, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm:** Cleaning of grave markers of Civil War veterans buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery in Churchtown, PA. RSVP on our website. Contact Don Madar at 814-397-0072 for more details.

Still Searching for a New Treasurer

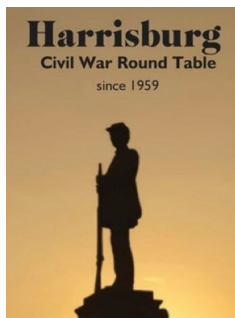
Any member who is interested in assuming the duties of Treasurer for the Harrisburg CWRT should contact our Past President, John West, who heads our Nominating Committee, at 412-217-1234 or john@johnfwest.com.

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!



**More donations to the Harrisburg CWRT have been made In memory of
Malcolm G. Wakefield, who passed away August 1.**



130th PA Monument
Antietam National
Battlefield

The Dispatch

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

October 2026

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



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:** _____
