



The Signal Station

It is getting quiet again. The gentle rat-a-tat-tat from the marching band at Gettysburg College and the bell towers all across town are ringing in the new Season. Sweater weather is here again. These comforting moments of stillness give us pause to reflect on our busier times. This year I have had the pleasure of working with some exceptional volunteers in our most important small town.

Our community of civil war historians, hobbyists, and humble buffs, have demonstrated their generosity over and over again. These aren't just hollow words. Each year Adams County hosts a Giving Spree that has become a showcase for our inhabitants' generosity. "Adams County has been the largest per capita giving day in the USA for its annual Giving Spree, a distinction it achieved in 2021 and 2022" according to Adams County Community Foundation. More than just funding, our Volunteers are our biggest donors. Time is a currency that can never be repaid and our Volunteers give so much of their life to our missions, our causes, to each other. It has been scientifically proven that giving can be just as satisfying as good chocolate, a glass of wine/beer/scotch, or a great big hug. It is a surge of dopamine that can become addictive. Christmas decorations have greeted us in stores since August. Remembrance Day is just around the corner. While searching for the perfect gifts consider sharing your time. You just might find it is a gift to yourself.



4th Quarter 2025
Issue 9

Officers

President: Michele Hessler
Vice President: Beth Wheeler
Recording Secretary: Veronica Brestensky
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Event Planner & Facebook Admin: Lynn Heller

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(2026) Ted Hirt, Jaimee Umstattd
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Board Member Ex Officio: Therese Orr



It will be here before you know it.

Here is the Where, When, What.

Speaker..... Dr. James Broomall

DateThursday, December 4, 2025

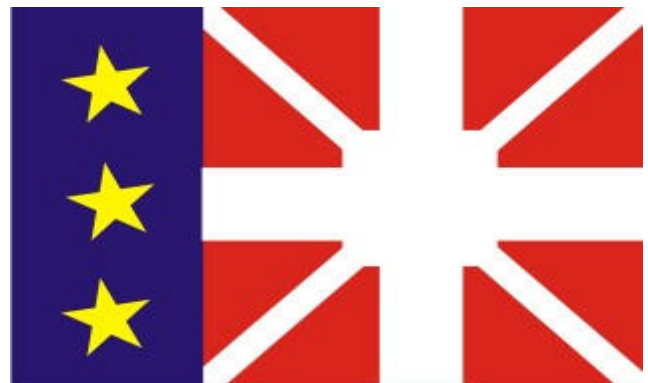
Time6:00 PM, for mingling & cash bar;
leading into dinner & presentation.

PlaceThe Historic Dobbin House

Reservations are required.

Keep your eye on the website for more details.
<https://cwrgettysburg.org/>

Contact Lynn Heller @ 717-398-2072 to donate
Raffle Prizes



CHRONICLES OF "THE MOST IMPORTANT ROUND
TABLE, IN THE MOST IMPORTANT SMALL TOWN, AT
THE MOST IMPORTANT BATTLEFIELD, IN THE MOST
IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN THE WORLD."

Joe Mieczkowski

President's Letter

Dear Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and was able to enjoy some fun summer activities. As much as I love summer, I am always excited for fall and the start of a new Roundtable year. It reminds me of getting new outfits and notebooks for going back to school.

I attend many Civil War Roundtable meetings. Not only do I participate in as many Gettysburg Roundtable meetings and events as possible, but my husband is also a Licensed Battlefield Guide, author, and frequent speaker at Civil War events. We have many friends on the Civil War speaker circuit with whom we enjoy taking tours and hearing lectures. The Roundtable meetings I've attended have ranged from small rooms in church basements to formal dinners in upscale hotels, from 15 attendees to 300, and from small towns to big cities.

No matter the setting, I am continually amazed by two things. First, I always learn something new, even if it's a topic I'm not particularly interested in or a subject I've heard multiple times before. I always joke that I don't particularly care what troops stood on what hill and in which direction they were facing. I'm glad that someone out there knows this stuff, but it doesn't interest me personally. Talk to me about Civil War politics, socioeconomics, personalities, or overall strategy, and I can go all day. Despite that, if I attend a lecture that is heavily focused on battles and troop movements, I can always find something new to learn. The second thing that always pleasantly surprises me (but shouldn't) is how warm and friendly the Civil War community is. We often roll into town after driving for several hours, quickly check into a hotel, and get changed before heading out to meet the Roundtable group. Everyone is always very welcoming and eager to let us know they are happy to have us there. They come up and introduce themselves, remind us that we met three years ago (and hopefully we remember!), or tell us that we have never met but that they have read Jim's books and really enjoyed them. They want to make sure their guests are comfortable. After the meeting, they are eager to give advice on where to grab a late dinner and local sites to visit while we're in the area. In conclusion, if you

are looking for a great community where you can learn new things, meet new people, and see new places, you can't go wrong with the Civil War Roundtable circuit. Speaking of seeing new sites, Jim and I were coming back from Lynchburg and Appomattox, VA, a couple of years ago. We asked one of our Roundtable hosts if there was anywhere we should stop to break up the drive back to Pennsylvania. She advised us to check out the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. Never having heard of it before and expecting to see a statue in a public square, we waffled on whether to stop or not. Nonetheless, we decided to check it out. Am I ever glad we did! We were absolutely blown away by it. This deeply moving tribute to the Allied forces who participated in the D-Day invasion of Normandy spans over 50 acres and has numerous monuments, statues, memorials, and plazas, including the Gray Plaza, which contains sculptures and water features that depict the landing and fighting. Bedford was selected as the site for the memorial because it suffered the highest per capita loss of any American town on D-Day, with 23 of 34 soldiers from Bedford being killed during the Normandy campaign. I highly recommend it as a place that every American should visit. I am looking forward to the remainder of the Roundtable year. We have some great speakers coming up.

Respectfully yours,

Michele Hessler, President



The Results are IN! The Signal Station POLL

- What is your favorite Civil War themed movie?

Below are the selections and quotes from your peers.

#1. **GLORY** The resounding favorite of our crew. We practically sang it from the cupola.

"Glory"; "GLORY!!!"; "Glory, because of the realistic-looking battle and training camp scenes."; "Glory, Simply put: it's inspiring."



#2. **Gettysburg** Deep down we know we love it, even if it's just familiarity. We will always love Gettysburg even if it means we get "rocks rolled down on us."

"Hard to pick one. I'll go with the obvious, Gettysburg,"; "My favorite is Gettysburg. I really liked the acting and the production with all of the reenactors was spectacular."



#3. **Lincoln** A testament to the humble nature of Lincoln, this film offers a window into his inner circle. Worth watching for Thaddeus Stevens alone.

"...Lincoln as a close second"; "Lincoln"



#4. **Abraham Lincoln Vampire Hunter** What can I say that isn't said perfectly below?

"Because the absurdity of it enhances Lincoln's aura of greatness. One can certainly stretch his or her imagination far enough to believe, "yep, if he had to, Lincoln could do that!"



#5. **Shenandoah** A certified classic that takes you through the horrors and simple joys experienced during the war and just when you think everyone made it out okay...

"I like Jimmy Stewart and Glenn Corbett."

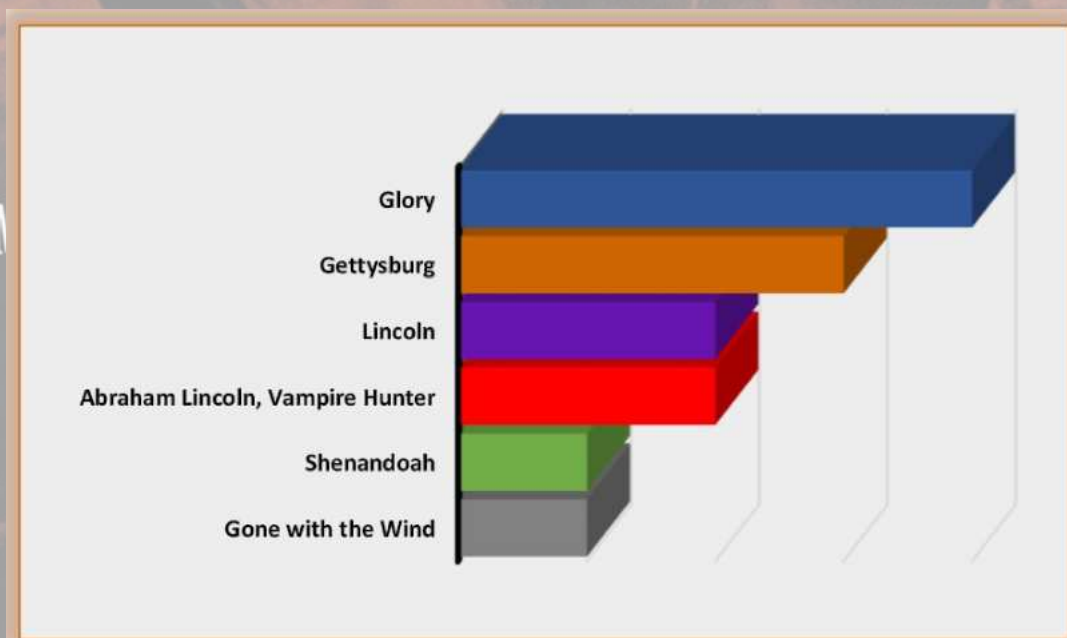


#6. **Gone with the Wind** Released in 1939 whether you love her or hate her, Southern belle Scarlett O'Hara, has seared her image into cinematic history.

"(long story)"



Pssst... If you didn't receive the email invite to take part of this poll, send an email to gettysburgcwrtnnewsletter@gmail.com to be included next time.



voices from our community

Do you have a reflection, personal connection, family history, or perspective related to this battle or its legacy? Maybe a story about visiting the battlefield, a lesson you've drawn from history, or thoughts about what remembrance means to you today?

"I always knew I had a connection to Gettysburg. My great great grandfather had come over from England to fight in the Civil War & boy was it amazing what I found out. He started out in the Navy & was honorably discharged after 11 months due to an injury. So enlisted in the 83rd New York (9NYSM) under an alias & would not go back to his name Charles Maryon until Aug of 1863. He will be captured at Bristow Station & spend 3 months as a captive. Will be listed as AWOL at Cold Harbor for 3 days but come to find out he was on a special mission for the General. Think about this he was English & both Lee & Grant were trying to find out what the other was doing. Charles will transfer to the 97th when the 83rd enlistment was up where he will finish the war out." - Warren Wilde

"When I was three years old and living in Brooklyn, there was a Memorial Day parade. In the parade were three Civil War veterans sitting in the backseat of a convertible car. I have the most vivid memory of it now 70 years later I can see the three shriveled, old men sitting in the back of the car covered by blankets. It is literally seared into my memory. This was 1955. 30 years later, I am watching the Civil War series by Ken Burns. And, of course, what do I see but video of this Memorial Day parade with a convertible car transporting the three Civil War veterans. As soon as I saw it, it meshed with my memory. It was exactly what I saw. It was really an unbelievable experience. So I am fond of telling people that "I've actually seen a civil war soldier ." - Peter Pickens



"I have identified 7 relatives who fought at Gettysburg. 4 were in the 148th PA and fought in the Wheatfield and over by the Pennsylvania Monument on day three. There are two monuments on the Battlefield to this unit. I have three relatives that fought outside the Seminary Hospital on Seminary Ridge. One was in the 151st PA and his commanding officer was Lt. Col. McFarland who was the last patient discharged from the Seminary Hospital. I portray a member of the Patriot Daughters of Lancaster who nursed at the Seminary Hospital. One relative fought in the 142nd PA next to the 151st PA. The third relative fought in the 143rd PA which also fought in the same area as the 151st and 142nd." - Colleen Delcamp

"I do not have a personal connection to the Battle of Gettysburg, but my wife and I recently found out that one of her 3x great

grandfathers was a Captain in the 26th Alabama. He did not make it to Gettysburg as he transferred to a cavalry unit sometime after July 1862. However, he had two brothers (so 3X great uncles to my wife) who served in the 38th Georgia under John B Gordon. The one uncle was appointed 1st Sgt of Company B of the 38th Georgia July 1, 1863 (appears to be a battlefield promotion). Both uncles survived the fighting on Day One around Barlow's Knoll, and made it through the Civil War, although the one uncle (not the one appointed 1st Sgt) was captured at Hanover Junction, VA in May 1864 and spent about 8 months at Point Lookout.

As for me, I set out on a mission this summer to visit every monument, marker and tablet in the Guide to Gettysburg Battlefield Monuments by Tom Huntington. I am happy to say that I was successful in doing so (even getting to Lost Avenue thanks to Dean Shultz) and finding other hidden gems, such as the Salem Virginia Artillery marker on the north side of the railroad cut across from the Mary Thompson house)." - Ken Miller



Introducing the New Gettysburg Railway

A new attraction has quietly opened just 2 blocks from the town square. Gettysburg Railway is now open to take passengers on a journey through the fields of battle and of orchards. I can tell you from first hand experience that this is definitely worth putting on your to-do list for a year round historical adventure. When you arrive at the station, you will enter the impossibly clean ticket office. There you can purchase souvenirs and your tickets if you have not already secured them through their website. Then on to the loading platform where you can rest until the "ALL ABOARD!" is called.



On this day, the General Manager, Amy Welsh, was conducting a test-run to make sure the sound quality was perfect so all of the good history could be heard. As we pulled out of the station and headed West, we were reminded of Day 1 Battle Action on Oak Ridge, Oak Hill and treated to a new angle from which to view the Eternal Light Peace Memorial. We chuffed on and as if on cue, a vibrant golden buck leapt from the bushes on the hillside, and away into the woods. Northbound now, we enjoyed the greenery as we went further back in time. We learned of George Washington's adventures through Adams County and his visit to Russell's Tavern in 1794.



No need to turn off a turbulence light while on a passenger train, the commissary car was open the whole time and we enjoyed cider, popcorn and other sweet treats. My daughter loved looking at the horses in the pastures and I loved how the employees get hospitality right. I'm looking forward to riding again on another gorgeous day on Gettysburg Railway.

—Jaimee

Thanks to Amy for the special invite to ride.



Many Thanks to Rob Williams for this fantastic photo.

gettysburgrailway.com

The railroads needed standardized time; as a result, the technology of train travel shaped the way everyone gets up, eats, goes to sleep, calculates age, and, perhaps of no small importance, imagine the world as a whole, ticking reliably, with reliable deviations, according to the beat of one central clock in a physical location. - Stacey D'Erasmus

New Member Spotlight

"Everyone can relate to a personal story, and so if you can relate to it, you create that thirst for knowledge and get people to hopefully study it on their own. Always question what you read."

Darin Weeks



Mare Fincher & Darin Weeks just celebrated their podcast's 5 year anniversary. The Civil War Breakfast Club is a brilliant off the cuff podcast that shines by being equal amounts educational and entertaining. There may not have been special orders wrapped around these cigars but their effortless discourse is a surefire win. When asked how long they've had Gettysburg in their sites, Mare immediately declared, "Since I was 10 years old." and Darin agreed, for him, "It has been a while." They recently made the move to Gettysburg and did what any savvy new townie would do; Join the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg. Each one of their podcasts starts with the question of "What are you drinking tonight?" so I caught up with our duo over a pint at Appalachian Brewing Company.

Q. What's in the name? Our humble interviewees met at the Chickamauga virtual Round Table where they enjoyed virtual beers together. Soon, they initiated their own meet-ups and posited the question, What Civil War General would be what character in the movie, The Breakfast Club?

"We wanted to create a spot for people where they felt safe discussing the Civil War no matter what side they were on." said Mare. When they moved the meet-ups to Saturday mornings they continued to enjoy their happy hour beverages just trading the pint glasses for coffee mugs. **Q. What subject matter provoked the most response from your audience?** The episode on McClellan enflamed some listeners. "We were called McClellan apologists." They were able to find their way back to civil discourse, but they discovered first-hand the polarizing nature of 'Little Mac'. **Q. What advice do you have for someone who wants to move here.** Darin suggests, "Rent first, to make sure your like it. You don't want your happy place to become your place of anxiety." Both Darin and Mare strategically volunteer at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg & at Antietam NMP reasoning you need to know the whole war to understand Gettysburg. It's also more appealing for them to have Gettysburg as their fun place and that spark is here to stay.

Check them out on the web and wherever you find your podcasts. <https://www.facebook.com/CivilWarBreakfastClub/>

Q. Where are you from? Hometown.

Mare: Goderich pronounced /gaa-drich/, Ontario, Canada.

Darin: Waltham, pronounced /WAWL-tham /, Massachusetts

Q. Favorite Food as a kid?

Mare: Clam Chowder

Darin: Chicken Parmesan

Q. What is your line of expertise?

Mare: Librarian

Darin: Residential Mortgage Lending Officer.

Q. If you could teleport to a CW site right now where would you go?

Mare: Franklin Darin: Shiloh

Q. Which one of you is writing a book?

"We Both Are."



"Librarians can help you with your research; make sure you are looking into the local resources... There's a wealth of information out there. Don't ever give up if you hit a road block."

Mare Fincher

Fred Hawthorn 140 Things a Battlefield Guide Should Know: Cemetery Hill Edition.

July 24th, 2025

Fred introduced us to fellow countryman that are buried at the National Cemetery. We sauntered to Evergreen Cemetery and as the evening came to a close, he may or may not have revealed a little known detail Peter Thorn intentionally left behind regarding Confederate burials.



Thank you again to Fred for donating his honorarium back into our Preservation Fund.



Photo by Lynn Light-Heller



Larry Korzyck The Wheatfield Part 3



August 28th, 2025

The ironweeds were in full bloom and the blue sky tucked behind some scattered clouds as Larry took us through the final moments of the action in The Wheatfield. We heard the stories at the actual time the events took place.

He hasn't ruled out a Wheatfield Part 4 to cover the the rarely mentioned July 3rd movements, but this has been the last chapter for the action on July 2nd, 1863.



Derek Maxfield William T. Sherman Part 2



Photo taken from Facebook Video

September 25th, 2025 We returned to ACHS for inhouse meetings.
Above: Pledge of Allegiance to the flags on the USS Missouri in Hawaii.
Below: Dave Diner proudly declares with the number of increasing new members, Dues Will Not Increase next year. There was enthusiastic cheering.



Photo taken from Facebook Video



Photo courtesy of Beth Wheeler



Photo courtesy of Beth Wheeler



Special Guests Jessica Maxfield & Michael Gosselin authored essays in the appendices of "Man on Fire" Photo courtesy of Beth Wheeler



Photo courtesy of Beth Wheeler

Above: Derek Maxfield wouldn't let a illness get in the way of thoroughly telling the tale of Sherman from Shiloh to post war. Over an hour later, through crackled voice, he declared, "Now I've earned a bourbon, if it didn't clash with my antibiotics."



Photo courtesy of Beth Wheeler

Events and Programs!

Our humble town boasts opportunities to listen and learn year-round, so celebrate Gettysburg and join us at these Upcoming Events with our Community partners.

October 3rd—4th Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground. a new American play by Richard Hellesten and directed by Peter Ellenstein. This production takes a candid and fascinating look through fictional eavesdropping on President Dwight D. Eisenhower at his Gettysburg, Pennsylvania farm. Tickets required. <http://gettysburgmajestic.com/>

October 4th—5th, 11th— 12th National Apple Harvest Festival. The festival is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays, rain or shine! The Festival has something for everyone with special attractions ranging from steam engine displays, live music, antique cars, orchard tours, pony rides, tastings, craftsman demonstrations ... and so much more! Tickets required. <https://www.appleharvest.com/>

Saturday, October 18th from 10am - 3pm AG Day & Farmer's Fair Activities will include: Sauerkraut Making, Apple Pressing, Corn Shelling, Woodworking, Coopering, Colonial Soup, Tomahawk Throwing, Reenactors and Military Timeline, Antique Tractor Display, Colonial Garden Display, Fiber Arts Display, Sale and Quilt Raffle, Tavern and Distillery Tours, Bombergers Cider for sale, Giftshop, and Antique Book Sale. **FREE** <https://www.northernnyorkhistorical.org/events/ag-day>

October 18th, Fall Festival on the Farm This free fall festival features kids activities, craft vendors, music, living historians, museum tours, and art. danielladyfarm.com

November 15th, 1 p.m. Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade. Starting on Middle Street and proceeding to Baltimore Street and then to Steinwehr Ave, this annual parade honors the soldiers and civilians of the Civil War. under the sponsorship of the Sons of Veterans Reserve, the military department of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War.

November 15th, 5:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m. Gettysburg Remembrance Day Illumination With the support of Gettysburg Foundation donors and volunteers, each grave is lit with a luminary candle, and the names of the fallen soldiers are read aloud in remembrance of their sacrifice at Gettysburg. gettysburgfoundation.org

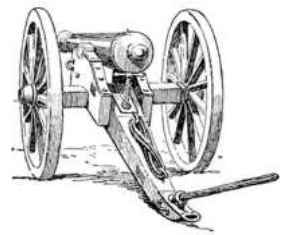
November 15th, Jane Austen Birthday Ball. Experience a lovely Regency Ball with English Dancing at the Aspire Ballroom in Gettysburg. All dances taught and called by excellent teachers and a renown band. Ball Ticket includes delicious Hors D'oeuvres & light refreshments for the evening. There is no strict dress code, but make a best effort to reflect the Regency time period. Tickets must be purchased in advance. <https://www.gettysburgball.com/>

November 15th, 7:30 p.m. Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital at Christ Lutheran Church. Performance of first personal accounts from soldiers and nurses about Christ Lutheran hospital, Civil War poetry, and Civil War—era music by well-known local musicians. **FREE** <https://christgettysburg.org/songs-stories-of-a-civil-war-hospital/>

November 17th 7:30 p.m. Native Americans in Adams County. Explore the county's early history with Ye Old Sulphur Spa Historical Society. On November 17 at 7:30pm, join Abigail Teaford of the Susquehanna National Heritage Area as she presents a program on the Native Americans who inhabited the area now known as Adams County. circumstances. Tickets required. <https://yosshs.org/>

November 19th, 10:30 a.m. Dedication Day Ceremony. Join the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania for the annual Dedication Day ceremony on November 19th in Gettysburg National Cemetery. The program features a wreath-laying, music, and a U.S. Naturalization and Citizenship ceremony. <https://www.gettysburgbaseballfestival.com/>

December 13th—14th, Holiday House Tours. Join us for this joyous, self-guided tour throughout historic homes and private residences in Gettysburg, PA. Tickets required. <https://gettysburghistory.org/event/holiday-house-tour-2025/>



Upcoming Speakers

October 23
Dr. Scott MacKenzie
Founding of West Virginia

November 20
Hampton Newsome
Gettysburg's Southern Front

December 4
Dr. James Broomall
Holiday Banquet
John B. Bachelder

2026

January 22
Scott Mingus
Railroads in the Gettysburg Campaign

February 26
Richard Condon
Pittsburgh at Gettysburg

March 26
Stephen Evangelista
The Gettysburg Gun

April 23
Ron Kirkwood
The Spangler Farm, Part 2

May 28
Jeff Harding & Jonathan Nese
The Weather in the Gettysburg Campaign

June 25
(rain date 6/29)
Deb Novotny
Evergreen Cemetery, Part 2



Our meetins are the Fourth Thursday of each month.

We meet at ACHS Battlefield Overlook Events Center, 625 Biglerville Road, Gettysburg, PA. The doors open at 6:30 pm. Meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

All photos in this publication are by Jaimee Umstatted unless otherwise noted.

The Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg, PA

2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg, PA welcomes new and returning members to join us for our monthly meetings and activities. Individual membership dues are \$30 a year. A family membership is \$45 a year per family living at the same address. Your membership runs from January 1 to December 31 of the calendar year.

New members can join anytime during the year and dues are prorated as follows:

<u>Join</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Family</u>
January – December	\$ 30.00.....	\$ 45.00

Please fill in the information requested below and return it with your dues payable to **Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable • PO Box 4236 • Gettysburg, PA 17325**. You may pay your dues with PayPal using the link at <https://cwrgettysburg.org/membership.htm>. For further Gettysburg Roundtable information, please visit our website at cwrgettysburg.org.

☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP ☐ RENEWAL \$ _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (☐ LAND LINE ☐ CELL) _____ E-MAIL _____

If you would like notifications to be sent to more than one email, please list the emails below:

Thank you, and welcome to the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg, PA

